

THE TIMES

No. 65,756

MONDAY DECEMBER 9 1996

TODAY 10P	CHRISTMAS SECRETS A SURVIVAL GUIDE TO THE OFFICE PARTY Seven ages of seasonal fun and Jeffrey Bernard's tips PAGES 16,17	MELVYN BRAGG  ON MONDAY PAGE 13	15 PAGES OF TIMES SPORT  MANCHESTER UNITED VS WEST HAM Match report PAGE 25 PLUS Tennis and cricket PAGES 26,27	TODAY 10P
----------------------------	---	--	---	----------------------------

THIS WEEK IN THE TIMES

TODAY
12 WINS OF CHRISTMAS
 Festive feasts with Fortnum & Mason hampers
 Premium live entry
 PLUS Matthew Parris, page 20 and Melvyn Bragg, page 18

TOMORROW
60 YEARS AGO...
 The Times and the abdication crisis
 PLUS The Libby Purves column

WEDNESDAY
STYLE
 How Cambridge students dress on a budget
 PLUS Interface, our weekly guide to new technology, Alan Coren and Nigella Lawson

THURSDAY
FILMS
 Geoff Brown on 102 Dalmatians
 PLUS Books, Appointments and Dr Thomas Stuttford

FRIDAY
POP
 David Sinclair's records of the year
 PLUS The Valerie Grove interview

SATURDAY
TEARS AND TANTRUMS
 Giles Whittell on Hollywood lovers

PLUS: IN THE DINESTORY YOUR THREE-WEEK GUIDE TO TELEVISION SATELLITE AND RADIO THIS CHRISTMAS

National interest comes first

Major tells sceptics: I will not be bullied

By PHILIP WEBSTER AND ANDREW PIERCE

JOHN MAJOR warned Conservative sceptics and mavericks yesterday that he would not be held to ransom on European or constituency issues even if it meant an early general election that could result in power being handed to a pro-European Labour leadership.

The Prime Minister issued a defiant defence of his wait-and-see policy on the European single currency, telling his critics that Britain needed to be in the negotiations to prevent other countries "cheating" on the entry conditions. Fleeing the field when the game was being played would be a dereliction

that Mr Major would use the interview to spell out his personal doubts about Britain entering with the first wave, but he disappointed them. He did say, however, that Britain had no intention of going into a "flawed economic and monetary union".

On Friday, Sir John Gort with-drew support from the Government over a dispute about a casualty unit in his local hospital and ended the Government's majority for the first time in 17 years.

Mr Major said that in present circumstances any one backbencher could have his "moment of fame" if he wanted to be difficult on any particular issue. "Well the Government cannot be held to ransom like this and we are not going to be held to ransom like this. If they do not support us, then we may have a general election, but that is in the nature of politics. But I am not going to be held to ransom by any single backbencher on any issue."

He added: "We have set out our policy and we are going to get it through. If we do not get it through, then we do not get it through. But I am not going to have the Government bending and weaving from the things it believes are right on the basis that somebody is trying a bit of pork barrel politics or a bit of arm-twisting of the Government because it has a small majority."

Any MPs who had that in mind would not get much warmth from activists up and down the country if they imperilled the Government's achievements because they had a "bee in their bonnet".

His words brought a speedy blast from one of the MPs who have been

Continued on page 2, col 4

Major warned, page 2
 William Rees-Mogg, Peter Riddell and Matthew Parris, page 20
 Leading article and Letters, page 21



Lucien Lawrence, the son of the murdered headmaster, with the Duchess of Kent yesterday, unveiling a plaque to his father. Page 4

Britain sets out on a £23 billion shopping spree

BRITAIN yesterday embarked on what traders called the biggest pre-Christmas shopping spree in almost a decade. A survey suggests that Britain will spend £23.5 billion on presents, food and drink, £700 million more than in 1995.

Not since the 1980s have shops been so full. Out-of-town shopping malls reported takings at least 15 per cent up on last year.

John Bryson, manager of Metro Centre, Britain's biggest out-of-town shopping mall, near Gateshead, said that at least 30,000 people had visited the centre. They spent an average of £125 each, compared with last year's £110.

At the Lakeside shopping complex at Thurrock, Essex, the earliest shoppers arrived soon after 7am - four hours before opening... Page 6

Kabul's starving sell human bones

Human bones are being sold in Kabul, Afghanistan's ruined capital, as children rob graves to get money for their starving families (writes Anthony Loyd). The bones are sent to Pakistan to make soap and chicken feed. An average man would fetch about 7,000 afghanis - almost 50 US cents... Page 11

Buying The Times overseas:
 Austria Sch 40; Belgium 8 Ffr 50;
 Canada \$11.00; Denmark 12 Dkr 18.00;
 Finland Fmk 17.00; France 14 Ffr 14.00;
 Germany DM 4.50; Gibraltar 50p;
 Greece Dr 17.00; Holland 12.50;
 Italy L 4.50; Luxembourg 17 Ffr 17.00;
 Spain 120 Ptas 120.00; Sweden 120 Sfr 120.00;
 Switzerland 2 Ffr 2.00; Turkey 2.200; USA \$3.50.

The Times on the Internet
<http://www.the-times.co.uk>

Student spots golden secret of card 772

By ALAN HAMILTON

IT WAS perhaps not quite in the league of finding a Leonardo at a car boot sale, but art student Peri Kemal-Orek was more than happy when she discovered yesterday that she had acquired a Frank Auerbach original painting for a mere £30. Especially when a similar work by the same artist was valued last year at more than 300 times that amount.

Peri, 27, a Turkish Cypriot living in London, turned up at the Royal College of Art to find that she had won the jackpot in an ingenious artistic lottery run by the college. Sixteen hundred artists, most of

them students, amateurs and other unknowns, submitted postcard-sized original works for an exhibition; but scattered about the walls were a handful of works by the famous.

All were unsigned, and all on sale at £30. Peri, who submitted an entry herself, took only five minutes to decide that she would buy picture No 772. It was a tiny streetscape, but its style looked familiar.

Peri had correctly spotted the Auerbach style. The Berlin-born painter, himself a former RCA student in the 1950s who works from a north London studio, is well known for his cityscapes, and they

are much prized: his postcard-sized entry for a similar blind auction last year was valued at £10,000.

Peri, who already has a fine art degree from Birmingham University and hopes to win a place at the RCA next year, said: "I was first in the queue when they opened the bidding. I looked at No 772, saw nothing else like it in the show, and decided it must be a genuine Auerbach."

But what would she do with her newly-acquired bargain? "I would love to keep it, but I am a poor student and I may have to sell it." All 1,600 works were sold, raising £50,000 for college funds.



Kemal-Orek spotted the Auerbach cityscape



TV & RADIO... 46, 47
 WEATHER... 24
 CROSSWORDS... 24, 48

LETTERS... 21
 OBITUARIES... 23
 PETER RIDDELL... 20

ARTS... 18, 19
 CHESS & BRIDGE... 38
 COURT & SOCIAL... 22

BUSINESS... 41-46, 48
 MIND & MATTER... 14
 LAW REPORT... 40

Chilly outlook fails to discomfit conservatory party

It was a key interview at a key moment, surprising us with its steadiness. Years of studying the man should have taught us — so why does it always come as a shock? — that just when you expect John Major to sidle out from his bunker with his hands up, he comes out fighting?

Britons switched on their television sets for Sunday lunchtime's *On The Record* expecting to see a peeved and

defensive Prime Minister floundering in the face of a sadistic John Humphrys. Instead, Mr Major spoke as though disposing of a little local difficulty got up by the media, before slipping into Great Stukeley for a pint before lunch.

John and Norma's Huntingdon conservatory became an eye of calm at the centre of a storm of Cabinet rumour. Dr Brian Mawhinney's scooters on Kenneth Clarke's lawn?

Why, Mr Humphrys, "I don't know whether anybody in Britain has scooters these days." An imminent shift in the Cabinet's line on a single currency? "What a load of old nonsense!" Major was ice-cool and halfway convincing, his performance laced with a self-belief which, though quiet, was almost fierce.

Future students of current affairs will rerun the video of that interview searching for harbingers of the Tory recovery — or Tory collapse — which will now follow. They will say the talk was watched by millions. "Watched" — yes. But we listened only fitfully to the debate. What gripped the nation was the inside peek at the Major's conservatory. Was the cane furniture Ikea? Was



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

that a fern trained from the pot on the window sill? "If the French are cooking the books..." insisted Humphrys — but what we wanted was a closer shot of the porcelain cat. "What a lovely weeping willow outside," trilled tens of thousands, as Mr Humphrys,

white-knuckled with conviction, pressed his point about economic convergence. "And the pond? It was so much bigger than we'd expected. The nation scanned the wavelets for ducks, but not a duck did we see. 'The French are fudging,'" said Humphrys — and, fleetingly, we caught the reflection of a figure in the window behind Major's head. Was it Norma? Or Elizabeth? Or James? Do the Majors have a home help? Would it be

Norma herself who threaded that climber so cleverly into a neat loop? Would Mr Humphrys get a chocolate digestive biscuit after the interview?

To such questions and many like them came no answers, as Major and Humphrys dined on about EMU, convergence and enlargement. By the end, even the most news-hungry journalist found his attention wandering to the impressive double glazing. For Mr Major,

the interview was therefore a success. Many years ago, while being presented by Margaret Thatcher with an RSPCA bravery award for rescuing a dog, I saw the dog seized by her leg. If she noticed, you would never have thought it. Her gracious expression in the *Sunday Express* photograph betrayed no hint of the indignity. Tory leaders learn to hide embarrassment where lesser mortals panic.

Europhiles urge Major to look beyond his party

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

A SUBSTANTIAL group of Conservative grandees and MPs join with other pro-Europeans today to warn John Major against trying to block progress in this week's Dublin summit on the future development of Europe.

In a radical policy plan, they call on Mr Major — and Tony Blair should he become prime minister next year — to bypass the Euro-sceptics in future by trying to secure all-party support in the Commons for any deal they intend to make.

Deeply suspicious that the Prime Minister is intending to take a hard line in Dublin because of his growing internal problems, Euro-enthusiasts from all parties have united to tell him that he is in danger of boxing himself into an impossible position that will damage Britain. They call for "confidence and daring" from ministers in their approach to Europe and opposition to the sceptics.

In an advertisement in *The Times*, the cross-party coalition suggested that the Government, or any future Labour government, should no longer seek to advance European developments by relying on their own supporters. Instead it should negotiate in the current inter-governmental conference — which reaches a critical stage in Dublin this week — with a view to mobilising the widest cross-party coalition of support in the Commons for any deal, rather than hoping to rely on a majority from any one party, as happened during the ratification of the Maastricht treaty.

It tells Mr Major that he should not regard the veto as a "credible or cost-free option" and, among its specific policy proposals that will anger the sceptics, it calls on the Government to resist any temptation to attack or dismember the European Court of Justice. The declaration from the pro-

Europeans, organised by the European Movement, is regarded as their most important statement since Maastricht. It confirms their determination to take a much more aggressive stance in their battle with the Euro-sceptics, which was in evidence last week in their vocal support for the stand being taken by Kenneth Clarke on the single currency.

Some 80 national figures and 500 other supporters have put their name to the advert which attacks the present British attitude at the IGC as too cautious and dogmatic. They include Lord Howe of Aberavon, the former Chancellor, and Foreign Secretary, Lord Gilmour, the former Tory Cabinet minister, Paddy Ashdown, Lord Richard, Labour's leader in the Lords, Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, the former Labour Chancellor and SDP leader, Roy Hattersley, the former Labour deputy leader, a number of former senior diplomats and five former European commissioners, including the Conservative Lord Tugendhat.

Sixteen Tory MPs have signed, including Edwina Currie, James Coughman, Tim Eggar, who resigned in

June as Energy Minister, Sir Anthony Grant, Sir Jim Lester, Peter Temple-Morris and Sir David Knox. Lord Howe said last night that it was "imperative" for the Government to work constructively with its European partners at the IGC and elsewhere.

"That is the best way to advance British power and influence in the world. There is a large majority in Parliament and the country for such an approach. The Government should have the courage and confidence to adopt it," Lord Howe said.

"Britain's position in Europe has always been built on wide cross-party support in both Houses. It is important that the Prime Minister has that in mind. It represents a much more secure path to the future than having to rely on majorities composed from one party."

The advert says the Government seems immobilised by fears of what Douglas Hurd once called "shadows on the wall". It says: "We are in danger of painting ourselves into a corner and achieving very little for Britain and for Europe as a whole."

It warns that Mr Major's advocacy of a multi-speed Europe, which has now led to Franco-German proposals for the establishment of an inner core "from which we would in effect exclude ourselves, places Britain's participation at the heart of Europe under serious threat."

It calls on the Government to work to ensure an agreed outcome at the IGC: "The Government risks boxing itself into a non-negotiable position in the current IGC. The UK can only secure its negotiating objectives by approaching this discussion with room for manoeuvre." It says that under no circumstances in future should the Government rule out participation in a single currency.



Howe recommends "more secure path"



My lips are sealed: John Major preparing for his BBC interview yesterday

'National interest comes first'

Continued from page 1
considering whether to resign the party whip over Europe. Terry Dicks accused the Prime Minister of ridiculing and insulting him. He was "ashamed and disgusted" by the Prime Minister's attitude towards him. Mr Dicks said: "I have never been so insulted ever than to be told that I was looking for my one moment of fame. I am seething. Right now I am in two minds whether to tell him to stuff his Government and his party. That is my immediate reaction, but it is not a wise one." Mr Major asked whether

any of his critics seriously would prefer Tony Blair going off to Amsterdam in June to negotiate on behalf of Britain. Explaining why he so passionately defends the wait-and-see stance, he said: "If when the time comes they fudge the criteria, then I need to be at the table to argue against that. I need to be at the table to vote against those countries going into a single currency. What authority would I have at that table if I decided at this stage, when my critics say I am not going to be there to try and prevent them cheating?"

John Redwood led the procession of Euro-sceptics who voiced their unhappiness. He said that nobody denied Mr Major's claim that Britain should remain in the talks, but the way to achieve influence was to have a British opinion. "Is it not time for Britain to say if there is so much fudge coming out of Brussels the currency scheme will not work?"

William Rees-Mogg, Peter Riddell and Matthew Parris, page 20
Leading article and Letters, page 21

Leaders meet amid gloom over Ulster

By Nicholas Watt and Audrey Magee

JOHN MAJOR will hold talks with the Irish Prime Minister today amid gloom at the prospect of advancing the stalled peace process before the general election.

With Dublin seeking a compromise formula to put Sinn Féin on a fast track into all-party talks in the event of a second ceasefire, the Prime Minister said that he would not be taken in by a second "phony" cessation of violence.

Mr Major, who will hold the talks in Downing Street with John Bruton, the Taoiseach, admitted that he was not optimistic about the prospects for another ceasefire. "What I do not wish to see would be a phoney ceasefire — a ceasefire simply to score public relations victories and to try and have Sinn Féin parachuted into the talks without actually giving up the violence which has sustained the IRA for so long," he said.

"In retrospect we had a phoney ceasefire. We thought we had a real one and what did we subsequently find out? Within days of declaring the ceasefire Sinn Féin/IRA were filling garages in London with Semtex and explosives. That's not a genuine ceasefire."

Mr Major refused to give a timescale for when the Government would decide a ceasefire was sustainable and push for Sinn Féin to enter inclusive talks on the future of Northern Ireland. Asked how long he would wait before accepting that a ceasefire was going to be sustainable, Mr Major said on the BBC's *On the Record*: "I will not wait too long to see if it is to be sustainable — I am not going to give you a time. It depends on actions not on the passage of a few days or weeks."

But he warned: "I'm not going down a fake path again. We've done that and we were betrayed by Sinn Féin/IRA, who said one thing when they were doing another. This time it needs to be real." The Prime

Minister said that the whether or not the ceasefire was judged to be sustainable would depend on intelligence reports of terrorist activity rather than the passage of time.

Mr Major's caution about the prospect for a lasting ceasefire found support from a former MI5 mole within the IRA. Sean O'Callaghan, who has been freed from jail after serving eight years of two life sentences for murder, said the IRA would declare a tactical ceasefire before the general election but would not abandon its use of violence until it had achieved a united Ireland.

O'Callaghan, who is in hiding since being released from Maghaberry jail in Co Antrim, Northern Ireland, is at risk from revenge by the IRA. As an informer for the Garda and MI5 in the 1980s, he is suspected of many of the IRA's terrorist operations.

O'Callaghan vowed yesterday to campaign against his "evil" former comrades who were duping the world into believing they were committed to the peace process. Speaking from his hideout, he told *The Sunday Times*: "Will there be a ceasefire? Yes. Will it be genuine? Not a chance. Republicans will murder many more people before this is all over."

He predicted that the IRA would renew its ceasefire before the general election in an attempt to lure the SDLP into an electoral pact with Sinn Féin. "If that happens, violence on a scale never seen before will be unavoidable. It is that serious. There is no possibility that the IRA will permanently eschew violence, short of victory." O'Callaghan said a 16-year-old boy in West Belfast had his legs broken in an IRA punishment beating. Two men took the boy to an alleyway in the New Barnsley Park area on Saturday night. They then tied him up with tape, hung him upside down from railings and beat him, breaking his legs.

How Humphrys became an appetiser for Sunday lunch

By Andrew Pierce, Political Correspondent

JOHN HUMPHRYS was winding up the *Today* programme at 8.40am on Friday when the telephone rang in the BBC studio. Downing Street came on the line just as the programme switched to *Yesterday in Parliament* and John Major's humiliation at the dispatch box at the hands of Tony Blair.

Jonathan Haslam, the Prime Minister's press secretary, was on the line. He wanted to know if the long-standing invitation for Mr Major to appear on the programme *On the Record* still stood. He knew the answer before Mr Humphrys said yes. But there was one

stipulation from Mr Haslam. The interview had to be at Huntingdon because Mr Major was hosting a Sunday family lunch with Norma for their son James, 21, his girlfriend Elaine Jordache, the Major's daughter Elizabeth, 25, and her boyfriend Luke Salter, 24. It was to be the first in-depth television interview with the Prime Minister to be conducted at his own home.

Downing Street had been galvanised into action after a brief survey of Friday morning's headlines. They were the worst since the fall of Margaret Thatcher. Mr Major, who was in Huntingdon, told Mr Haslam on the telephone: "Get me on the television." It had been a torrid 24 hours. After Mr

Major's mauling at the dispatch box, more difficulties were to come. John Ward, his Parliamentary Private Secretary, came to see him the same night with a written report of the meeting of the Tory backbench 1922 Committee. It was depressing reading for Mr Major. Even traditionally loyalist troops were reaching the stage of mutiny. An opinion poll showing the Tories 37 per cent adrift irritated Mr Major even further as it conflicted sharply with the party's own private findings.

Mr Major had a brief discussion in Downing Street with Alastair Goodlad, the Chief Whip. He had already broached the idea of a fightback with Dr Brian Mawhinney, the party chairman. The Prime Minister went to Huntingdon late on Thursday. When a summary of the newspaper cuttings were delivered to his home, the Finings, his mind was made up. The media counter-offensive swung into action.

Some mischievous aides of Mr Major thought that the timing was ideal. Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, had gone away for a long weekend with his wife Gillian. The break was at her behest. It meant he was out of reach of the press.

Invitations were in Mr Haslam's desk from big-name interviewers, including Sir David Frost. But Humphrys, the anchorman of the *Today* programme, was the Prime

Minister's choice. One week earlier Humphrys, one of the toughest political interviewers, had spent a convivial evening with Mr Major at the Australian High Commission.

It was a fundraising evening for the Newspaper Press Fund, which helps journalists who have fallen on hard times. Humphrys is the chairman. Mr Major, in a light-hearted speech, poked fun at his BBC sparring partner. Humphrys responded in kind. But the last laugh was on Mr Major.

When the dinner ended, Mr Major and Humphrys, who were still locked in conversation, asked for a beer. Humphrys had to admit that, surprisingly for a journalistic

gathering, they had run out. Neal Blewett, the Australian High Commissioner, rescued the situation. He disappeared into the cellar and returned with reinforcements. Before they parted that night Humphrys reiterated his wish for Mr Major to come back on to his show.

Mr Major agreed to ponder the request. While some ministers object to Humphrys's aggressive style, the Prime Minister is said to relish the fight. It was significant that last year, having triggered the leadership contest, he chose Humphrys's programme to argue his case the following Sunday.

The BBC arrived in Huntingdon at 8am. Humphrys showed up one

hour later at a breakfast with his production team at the Bridge Hotel, a short drive from the Prime Minister's home. A similar breakfast was going on at the same time in Mr Major's house with Mr Haslam and Howell James, his political secretary, to rehearse the answers for the 50-minute interview.

After the interview, recorded an hour before it went out, Mr Major introduced the presenter to his wife and family, who were gathered in the large kitchen, and showed him the new goldfish pond. Humphrys said afterwards: "He was in fighting form. Grown up politicians like a tough interview."

Free memory. Don't forget to call.



pentium processor

also worth reminding you that Dell supplies excellent value portable and server products as well as desktops. So get in touch with the world's largest direct PC manufacturer today on 01344 724672 and take advantage of our free offer. But remember, time is running out.

*Free offer available only on Dell Dimension XPS P133s bonus bundle as specified here until 14.12.96 exclusive. *Source: IDC

You won't forget to call, will you? Until 14th December only, we're offering an extra 16Mb of SDRAM memory for free on the Dell Dimension™ XPS P133s, our value for money multimedia bundle! It's



DELL DIMENSION XPS P133s BONUS BUNDLE

- INTEL® 133MHz PENTIUM® PROCESSOR
- 16MB SDRAM + EXTRA 16MB SDRAM FREE
- 512Kb CACHE
- 2Gb EIDE HARD DRIVE
- NEW STB POWERGRAPH 64 3D PCI GRAPHICS CARD WITH 2Mb VIDEO MEMORY
- 15" COLOUR SVGA MONITOR (13.75" VIEWABLE AREA)
- EIGHT SPEED CD-ROM DRIVE
- MID-SIZED TOWER CHASSIS
- INTEGRATED 16-BIT SOUND AND ACS90 SPEAKERS
- MICROSOFT® WINDOWS 95 & MS OFFICE PROFESSIONAL 95

£1,199 (£1,438.20 incl. delivery + VAT)

FREE 16MB SDRAM WORTH £120 OFFER CLOSES SATURDAY 14TH DECEMBER. CALL NOW



DELL

TALK DIRECT TO THE NUMBER ONLY 01344 724672 Between 8am and 8pm weekdays, 10am to 4pm Sat.

Fiancée of 'road rage' knife victim is held by police

By DANIEL MCGROK

THE fiancée of the alleged "road rage" victim Lee Harvey was under police guard in hospital last night after she was arrested in connection with his stabbing on an isolated country road a week ago.

Detectives are waiting for doctors to decide whether Tracie Andrews, 27, is well enough to be questioned about the murder, which she told a televised press conference came after a violent confrontation with another driver.

Miss Andrews had been in hospital after taking an apparent overdose and returned to the flat she shared with Mr Harvey in Alvechurch, Hereford and Worcester, on Saturday where police were waiting for her. She was taken to Redditch police station but after being examined by two doctors they decided she should be readmitted to hospital, describing her as being in "a dangerously emotional state".

Her mother and stepfather, Irene and Alan Carter, have been allowed to visit her and are looking after five-year-old Carla, Miss Andrews's daughter from a previous relationship. As the police vigil continued at an undisclosed hospital forensic teams searched for the murder weapon alongside Coopers Hill, Alvechurch, where 25-year-old Mr Harvey was found dead with 16 stab wounds. Thirty officers questioned motorists at eight road blocks on the route taken by the couple.

West Mercia police are also questioning friends and relatives of the couple about their relationship which has been described as "stormy and tempestuous". Although the couple planned to marry in summer a close friend of Mr Harvey said: "Tracie was always throwing him out then taking him back. Their engagement has been off three times."

The detective leading the inquiry, Detective Superintendent Ian Johnston, would last night say only: "We wish to confirm that a 27-year-old woman was arrested and brought to the police station but we have not and will not confirm the identity of that person."

"It's still not clear when we will be in a position to interview her. We have not started to question her yet."

Miss Andrews made an emotional appeal to find the driver and passenger of a Ford Sierra car which she said chased them for three miles along country lanes after they left a pub.

The former model and barmaid, who appeared with stitches in a cut above a black eye, told how she had been hit in the face by the passenger of the car pursuing them. She described him as an overweight man "with stary eyes" whom she had seen repeatedly stab her fiancé.

Relatives of the couple were yesterday left confused by this latest twist in the murder hunt. Mr Harvey's father Ray said: "This is the vilest murder possible. I just want to see justice done and what I want to do is look into the eyes of my son's killer."

Detectives have told him only that they have taken a woman into custody. "There has been a lot of speculation, but we are trying to keep an open mind until something official is said," Mr Harvey added. He had sat beside Miss Andrews as she made her televised appeal.

Since the stabbing on December 1 police have been appealing for witnesses who either saw the car chase or the argument, which allegedly ended with Mr Harvey's death. A senior police source said yesterday: "We've had a good public response but there were no sightings of the incident as allegedly described."

Detectives also began to examine the timetable that Miss Andrews had given them in which she claimed that the couple left a pub at 9.30pm to drive three miles to their home but the police were not called until an hour later.

Miss Andrews was herself covered in blood and told police she had cradled her dying fiancé in her arms.



Stabbing victim Lee Harvey with his fiancée Tracie Andrews, who is now under police guard in hospital

Drug baron shot dead in gang war

By AUDREY MAGER
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

A DRUG baron nicknamed The Psycho was shot dead early yesterday in Dublin's latest gangland killing. Peter Joseph Judge, 41, was shot twice in the head as he sat in his car outside a pub.

Judge was one of four men controlling the Dublin drug scene and was himself suspected of murdering at least two men. He is the fifteenth person to have been murdered in contract-style killings in the Irish capital since 1994 when the IRA murdered Martin Cahill, the criminal godfather nicknamed The General.

After Cahill's death, the Dublin criminal underworld splintered into various gangs, one of which was responsible for the murder last June of the journalist Veronica Guerin. Judge, who dealt in heroin, cannabis, amphetamines and Ecstasy, is not believed to have been involved in her death.

Judge had been to the Royal Oak pub in Finglas, north Dublin, on Saturday with a girlfriend. The two left at 12.15am and went to their Ford Fiesta in the car park. Mr Judge had barely started the engine when a masked man on a motorcycle fired through the window. He died instantly.

Match of the Day: Lynam and Albion

By A STAFF REPORTER

BRIGHTON and Hove Albion, the troubled football club, has received an offer of help from Desmond Lynam. The BBC sports presenter and a long-time Brighton fan telephoned BBC Radio 5 Live's Six-O-Six, presented by David Mellor, on Saturday, offering to act as mediator.

The problems at Brighton centre on the sale of the Goldstone Ground, which may leave the club homeless in June. Supporters' fears for the club's future have led to protest marches, boycotts and pitch invasions. The team occupies 92nd place (out of 92) in the Football League, went out of the FA Cup to a non-

league team, and is without a manager.

Lynam offered to mediate between Bill Archer, the club chairman, and a consortium that hopes to take over the club. "We would get them in a room and kick their backsides for a couple of hours and see if we could get something sorted out because things are looking so black that the club is going to die," Lynam told listeners.

"I called in absolute frustration, really," Lynam said yesterday. "I keep getting letters and calls from people who know my love for the club and I'm desperate to do something. I'm as mortified as they are - I've been racking my brains for two years."

Lynam was contacted shortly after the broadcast by David Davies of the Football Association, and invited to join discussions sponsored by the Football Association to resolve all parties via the arbitration arm of the Confederation of British Industry.

Dick Knight, the leader of the consortium, speaking on yesterday's Gary Lineker programme on Radio 5, and John Baine of the Brighton Independent Supporters Association, welcomed Lynam's intervention but called for the FA to take stronger action.



Lynam: called show in absolute frustration

Royal divorcees together for Prince's carol service

By ALAN HAMILTON

THE Prince and Princess of Wales were seen together for the first time yesterday since their divorce in August. They joined Prince William in Eton College Chapel for the annual Christmas festival of lessons and carols. The Prince, who is 14 and in his second year at the school, read one of the lessons.

They arrived separately at their elder son's school house and were welcomed inside by Andrew, the housemaster. The Princess drove herself to the school in a black BMW; the Prince arrived five minutes later as a passenger in a Vauxhall Cavalier. The couple then entered the chapel by a side door to avoid waiting photographers.

Prince William read "The Prophet Micah" foretells the glory of Bethlehem. Micah, v. 24. Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, said: "It was an excellent service. Prince William read the lesson very well."

The couple's appearance together came on the day of an unconfirmed report that the Queen, in a move of reconciliation, would invite the Princess to her annual family lunch at Buckingham Palace on December 18, shortly before she departs for Christmas at Sandringham. The Palace would not confirm the invitation.

Last Christmas was the first since the separation that the Princess did not take up the Queen's invitation to spend part of the holiday season at Sandringham. It was a difficult period for the Princess, coming days after the Queen had written urging the couple to proceed with their divorce. The Princess is thought unlikely to attend the Sandringham gathering this year. All eyes instead will be on whether the guest list numbers Sophie Rhys-Jones, who has been the girlfriend of Prince Edward for three years but who still appears to be in want of a proposal of marriage.

Miss Rhys-Jones is rumoured to be tired of waiting. Whether she appears this year will be an important clue to Prince Edward's future marital status.

Diana, Princess of Wales, meanwhile, will be the centre of attention today when she delivers a speech in London to the International Federation of Anti-Leprosy Associations. Later she will fly to New York for a charity function.



The KLM Fokker on the edge of a foam-drenched runway at Heathrow yesterday after its port undercarriage collapsed on landing

Crash-landing delays hundreds of flights

By HARVEY ELLIOTT
AIR CORRESPONDENT

HUNDREDS of flights to and from Heathrow Airport were delayed yesterday after the undercarriage of a twin-engine plane carrying 41 passengers and four crew collapsed on landing, blocking a runway.

More than 150 flights were delayed by at least two hours, others were cancelled and thousands of passengers were held at airports throughout Europe waiting for clearance to fly to Heathrow. Accident investigators carried out an inspection of the undercarriage of the KLM City Hopper Fokker 50 in an attempt to pinpoint what caused it to collapse on landing.

The captain of flight KL 483, from Rotterdam, had told air traffic controllers that he was "not getting three green lights", indicating that the three legs of the undercarriage had locked down safely and that the port leg was not deploying fully.

As firefighters sprayed foam onto the runway, the propeller-driven aircraft made a perfect approach from the west and touched down, apparently without incident. But as the aircraft braked some 200 metres down the

runway the port undercarriage buckled, tipping the aircraft on to its port wing while it was moving at about 60mph.

As soon as the plane had come to a halt the passengers were evacuated, with only one suffering a bruised toe as he stumbled from the escape chute.

The aircraft, built in 1991 and with no previous history of undercarriage trouble, was left on the edge of the runway, which had to be closed to both landing and departing aircraft.

The entire airport closed for a time as controllers sorted the arriving aircraft and held those intending to

take off. Both arriving and departing aircraft then had to use another runway, seriously reducing the airport's overall capacity. British Airways alone had to delay 30 flights by at least two hours and cancelled three services to Manchester.

Sunday afternoon is one of the busiest times of the week for flights from and to continental Europe and dozens of pilots were ordered to wait where they were rather than attempt to come to Heathrow. The blocked runway was expected to be cleared by late last night, and most flights should be back to normal by today.

IS MERCHANTS TAKEAWAY PIZZA INDIAN RESTAURANTS BED & BREAKFASTS CINEMAS T
OPS EMPLOYMENT AGENCIES LADIES HAIRDRESSERS RAILWAY STATIONS AIRPORTS BUS
URANTS GARAGE SERVICES FLORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WINDOWS DOUBLE GLA
EHICLES BUILDERS BODY REPAIRS ROOFING SERVICES LOCKSMITHS GLAZIERS CAR HIRE
IG MOBILE... HOTELES BLOCKED DRAINS COURIERS KITCHEN PLAN
AL HE... AGE CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNT... AR BREAKDO
PUBS... NT WINDSCREENS AIR COND... HIRE DE
IG S... TYRE DEALERS CARPE... EANERS
TRU... GLAR ALARMS INSURAN... DEALERS
RS... E HIRE BLI... CAR ALAR
NG... R FLATS &... CAR SERV
NG MA... ORIES CAR &... L VEHICLE
EUR DR... CRANE & HYDRAULIC P... MOTO
ATORS CAN... GARAGE SERVICES WAS... SER
RS & FITTERS SECURITY SERVICES & EQUIP... RE CATERERS IND... NCIAL
REPAIRS BEDS & BEDDING LA... RDN DESIGNERS C... EES TAI
AY SERVICES NURSING HOM... AIRS DOMESTIC AP... REPAIRS CA
COPIERS RESIDENTIAL & RET... V & SATELLITE... ALLATION
WAY PIZZA INDIAN RESTAU... AKFASTS... TQANS FISH
YMENT AGENCIES LADIES H... G TAXIS & PR
E SERVICES FLORISTS PLUM... SOLICITOR
ERS CAR BODY REPAIRS LOCKSMITHS GE... PLAN & INSTALLAT
HONES ELECTRICIANS HOTELES BLOCKED DRAINS... W... YERS DE
VALS & STORAGE CONSERVATORIES ACCOUNT... T... TAXIS & PR
CEMENT WINDSCREENS AIR CONDITIONING... ET... SOLICITOR
E SERVICE... ORISTS PLUMBERS REPLACEMENT WIND... NG & INSTALLAT
ERS CAR BODY REPAIRS... THS GLAZIERS ROOM... RECOVER... PUBS
HONES ELECTRICI... BLOCKED DRAINS CO... RE PRIM... S DE
VALS & STOR... ORIES & COUNTA... MAKERS... N & T
CEMENT... ITTING CA... S V... NG MACHINE R
TY MANA... RPS USE... E BLIND... TION & RE... SEI
S BURG... E EQUI... TION & RE... AR PARTS... M HIRE
NANCE... TION & RE... SUPPLIERS CRAN... OINERY TRAVEL
TORS RO... SUPPLIERS CRAN... OINERY TRAVEL
EUR DRIVEN... SUPPLIERS CRAN... OINERY TRAVEL
ERS & DECORATORS... OINERY TRAVEL
E DOOR SUPPLIERS &... OINERY TRAVEL
RS RADIO TV &... OINERY TRAVEL
C LAYING PAVING... OINERY TRAVEL
DIO DEALERS... OINERY TRAVEL
IS MERCHANT... OINERY TRAVEL
OPS EMPLOY... OINERY TRAVEL
URANTS... OINERY TRAVEL
EHICLES BU... OINERY TRAVEL
AL HEADING R... OINERY TRAVEL
PUBS... OINERY TRAVEL
IG S... OINERY TRAVEL

FREEPAGES, I WONDER IF YOU CAN HELP?!

Whatever business or service you're looking for, locally or nationally, call Freepages. We're here to help 24 hours a day, 365 days a year and it won't cost you a penny.

FREEPAGES 0800 192 192
http://www.freepages.co.uk

ry party
iders mee
id gloom
er Ulster
ay lunch
call.
FREE
WORTH £20
DELL
344 7240

Son unveils memorial to head who never let his pupils down

By JOANNA BALE

THE nine-year-old son of the murdered headmaster Philip Lawrence unveiled a plaque to his father yesterday on the first anniversary of his death.

In a moving ceremony outside the gates of St George's Roman Catholic School, Maida Vale, northwest London, Lucien Lawrence stepped onto a dais and smiled nervously as he pronounced: "Now I shall unveil the memorial to my daddy."

Helped by the Duchess of Kent, he then pulled a cord to reveal the plaque, which said his father "gave his life in defence of a pupil". Cardinal Basil Hume and Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, were among those who stood and applauded. Pupils attending the ceremony were visibly upset by the rekindled memories of Mr Lawrence's stabbing, many having seen their wounded headmaster staggering back through the school gates before collapsing and later dying in hospital.

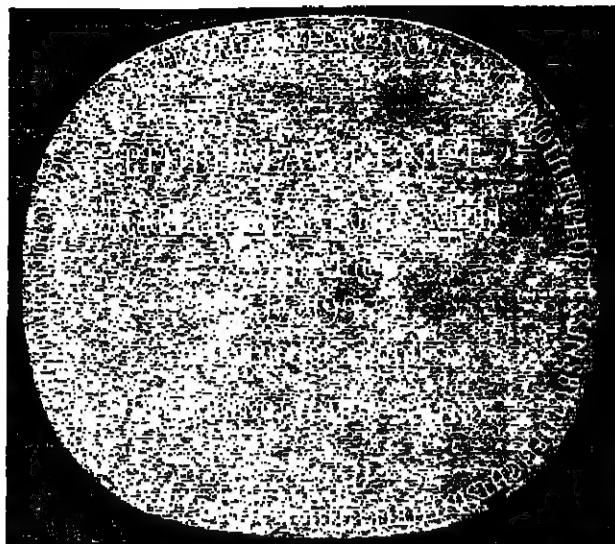
Kamil Zulawski, 11, said: "He was a good man and good for the school. Now we must do our best to live up to his example."

In a service in the school's main hall, Cardinal Hume,

Archbishop of Westminster, told 200 pupils, teachers, friends and politicians that Mr Lawrence was "an example to be followed as well as a memory to be cherished". He added: "Here was a man who got things right. He seemed to incorporate in a person all the values that our society needs and for which Frances, his beloved wife, has so rightly called."

Mrs Lawrence, who has initiated a national debate on morality since her husband's death, said that the memorial encapsulated "the quietude, the strength and the abiding principle of his life". She added that it was "above all for his pupils". "In the early morning or at dusk as they walk through the school gates, perhaps they will pause for a while and consider for a while the words on the plaque."

"They will visualise how he would stand at the gates and send them on their way cheerfully and remember that he cared deeply for each one of them. That he respected and delighted in each of his pupils' individuality and considered each one of them to be capable of greatness. They will remember that when times were



"... love takes no pleasure in other people's sins ..."

tough he gave them hope and that he never let them down."

Referring to an inscription on the plaque from Corinthians, she added: "One year ago today, Philip died. What he was will live on and just as truth is eternal, so the words on the memorial to him form an unbroken circle."

Mr Lawrence was stabbed by a 15-year-old boy as he tried to help one of his pupils who was being attacked by a gang of teenagers outside the school

gates. Earlier this year, an Old Bailey judge ordered Learco Chindamo to be detained indefinitely for the murder.

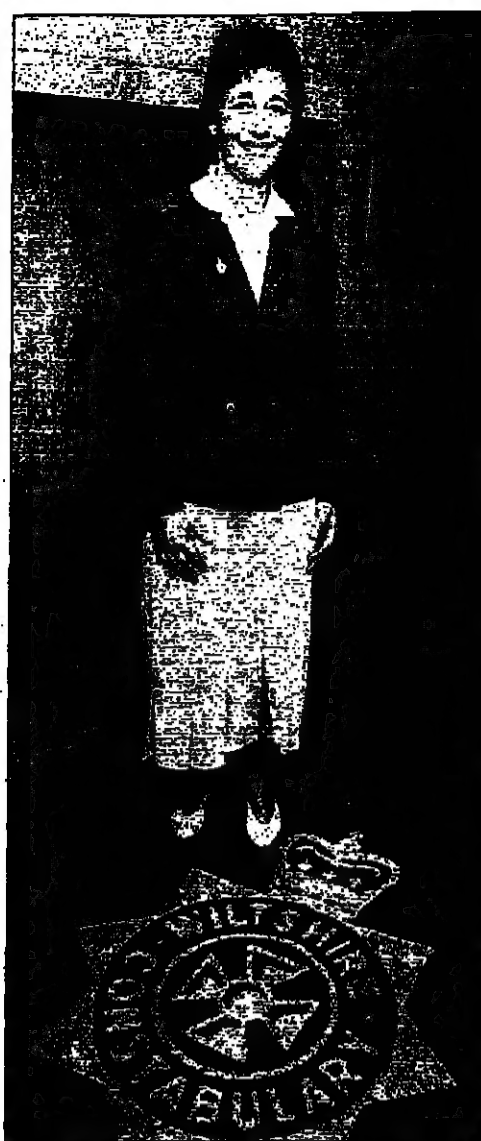
Mr Lawrence's three daughters, Maroushka, who read a psalm, Myfanwy and Unity, and his mother were at the service. Mrs Lawrence thanked the thousands of people who had given money for the memorial. "It is created from your generosity and from your prayers and gentle words. Without these,

the children and I would have been lost," she said.

Mr Howard paid tribute to Mrs Lawrence for attempting to make something "meaningful and positive" from his death. "The bravery Frances has shown has inspired each of us who have seen it. More than that, it has touched the conscience of the nation. It was her choice that love and reason would triumph over hate and irrationality. She has decided that Philip's death can be an agency of change and healing in society. She has offered us her ideas for healing our society and she has given us a vision of regeneration." Mr Howard recently launched an award scheme, as a result of Mrs Lawrence's initiative, to promote good citizenship among young people.

Although security was tight around the school, there was no obvious police guard for Lucien, who was the target of a failed abduction attempt by bogus social workers who called at his home in Ealing, west London, last week.

The Duchess of Kent, who is suffering from chronic fatigue syndrome, spoke of her friendship with the family since Mr Lawrence's death and of how he was a "shining example" to the world.



Elizabeth Neville: "Women are in a minority and that creates difficulties"

Women need middle ground, says newest police chief

By STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

POLICE forces still do not have enough women in their middle ranks at a time when opportunities for promotion have ceased to widen. Britain's newest woman chief constable says. Elizabeth Neville, appointed to lead the Wiltshire force, said women were sometimes shy about seeking promotion and there were fewer jobs available as superintendents.

Speaking as she began preparations to move from the deputy chief constable's seat in Northamptonshire, she said: "Women are in a minority and that creates its own difficulties. Promotions may settle down and level off instead of continuing to climb. The pool of officers to choose chief officers from is very small."

Lancashire's deputy has a woman chief constable, Pauline Clare. Senior women now meet during the year to discuss developments. Miss Neville, 43, an Oxford graduate, said women make up 14.5 per cent of police strength and a quarter of recruits, but this was a recent change.

She accepts that sexism and harassment exist, although she has never experienced them directly. They can be crushed with good personnel work and complaints systems, she said. The mother of two children, aged 10 and 12, she is divorced from another officer, now an assistant chief constable. She said: "My staff kept bringing me newspaper cuttings about divorce and mother of two. They never write that about men. I have got used to it."

Woman, 51, gives birth to her daughter's child

By JEREMY LAURANCE, HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

THE doctor who helped a 51-year-old grandmother to give birth to her own grandchild said yesterday the case was unlikely to be repeated.

John Webster, director of the Fertility Services Centre at BMI Park hospital, Nottingham, said most women did not discover they were infertile until well into their 30s, by which time their own mother would be too old to act as a surrogate.

Mr Webster was speaking after Caitlin Langston was born last Thursday to her grandmother Edith Jones. It is the first time such a birth has occurred in Britain.

Mrs Jones, who went through the menopause five years ago, agreed to carry the baby for her daughter, Suzanne Langston, 22, who was born without a womb. Eggs were removed from Mrs Langston's ovaries, fertilised with sperm from her husband, and two embryos were implanted in her mother's womb.

The 5lb 3oz girl, who was born by Caesarean section at Darlington Memorial hospital, is therefore genetically its mother's. However, legally, Mrs Jones is Caitlin's mother and her name will appear on the birth certificate. But in six weeks Mrs Langston and her husband, Chris, can apply to the courts for a Parental Order

that will make the baby officially theirs.

Mrs Jones, who admitted the pregnancy was more tiring than she had expected, said: "It is just wonderful to see Suzanne and Caitlin together. We have all waited a long time for this but it has been worth every minute."

Suzanne added: "The past few days have been out of this world — the most marvellous time of my life. I can still hardly believe I now have my very own baby girl."

The world's first surrogate grandmother, Pat Anthony, gave birth to triplets which she had carried for her daughter, Karen, in South Africa in 1988. Ray Kennedy, the triplets' grandfather, said yesterday they were "super, bouncy children" who were unaffected by the unusual circumstances of their birth.

A man removed a ten-inch tube left in his wife's body after an operation by following instructions given to him over the phone by a nurse. South Tyneside Healthcare NHS Trust has apologised to Gillian Robson of Byker, Tyne and Wear, who has been offered a financial settlement. Her husband Paul, an industrial engineer, was told he might be able to remove the tube after the hospital said it could not perform the procedure until the next day.

Should mothers have been told?



MEDICAL BRIEFING

A SERIES of legal actions by epileptic mothers against doctors and health authorities is due to start in the next few months. The mothers claim that their children's disabilities would have been avoided had they been warned of the dangers of treating their seizures with sodium valproate while they were pregnant.

A letter to *The Lancet* in 1986 analysed the increased risks of pregnant women having a child with congenital deformities to the spine if they had taken sodium valproate, marketed as Epilim, during the first three months of pregnancy.

Mention of a link between sodium valproate and congenital malformation had been made in other letters to medical journals since 1982. But it was the review in *The Lancet* which showed that the chance of having a baby with abnormalities to the spine such as spina bifida was increased fourfold. It is now recognised that children born to mothers taking sodium valproate also have an increased risk of having wide-set eyes, a broad nose and varying degrees of physical and mental incapacity.

Since the 1986 report in *The Lancet* it has been generally

accepted that women should be told of the risk of taking sodium valproate and if they were to continue this treatment during a pregnancy it would need careful discussion and their informed consent.

There is a case for continuing treatment with Epilim in some instances when, if it were not to be prescribed, there would be a grave risk of the patient having seizures, which could damage the fetus.

Sodium valproate has other side-effects. The drug is hepatotoxic and patients who are taking it, whether pregnant or not, need to have their liver function tests monitored regularly. Periodic blood counts are also necessary so as to check platelet levels — the small particles in the blood involved in clotting. When testing for diabetes, sodium valproate makes the urine tests unreliable and blood tests have to be substituted. In other patients the drug has caused pancreatitis.

One unusual effect of sodium valproate is that in about 2 per cent of patients it makes their hair curl.

DR THOMAS
STUTTAFFORD

**WE'LL HELP
YOU INTO YOUR
NEW HOME, BUT
WE PROMISE
NOT TO LOCK
YOU IN.**

If you're looking for a deal on a new mortgage but you don't want to be trapped by early repayment fees, Halifax have the answer.

Our range of discounted variable rate mortgages has rates from as low as 5.29% 5.5% APR over two, three or five years, but best of all no early repayment fees. So, if for any reason you decide to repay your mortgage before the end of the discount period, it won't cost you a penny in penalties.

For more information call into your local Halifax branch or phone us free on 0800 10 11 10 for an information pack. With our new mortgage deals, we'll always leave the door open for you.



Get a little extra help.

<http://www.halifax.co.uk>

TYPICAL EXAMPLE: EXISTING HALIFAX MORTGAGE CUSTOMER MOVING HOME: A COUPLE (MALE AND FEMALE BOTH NON-SMOKERS, AGED 29), APPLYING FOR A PEP MORTGAGE OF £50,000 SECURED OVER 25 YEARS ON A PROPERTY WITH A PURCHASE PRICE OF £64,000. MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENT NET OF TAX RELIEF £294.67. 300 MONTHLY PAYMENTS. MONTHLY PEP PREMIUM £99.72. TOTAL AMOUNT PAYABLE £140,548. INCLUDES ADDITIONAL MORTGAGE SECURITY FEE £970. CONVEYANCER'S CHARGES £117.50. MORTGAGE DISCOUNT FEE £60. CHARGE FOR DESCRIPTION OF TITLE DEEDS £15 AND INITIAL INTEREST OF £155.08 ASSUMING COMPLETION ON 15.03.97. IN CALCULATING THE APR, THE EXAMPLE ASSUMES A RATE OF 5.29% 5.5% APR APPLIES THROUGHOUT THE MORTGAGE TERM. HOWEVER AT THE END OF THE DISCOUNT RATE PERIOD THE SOCIETY'S VARIABLE MORTGAGE BASE RATE WILL APPLY WHICH IS CURRENTLY 5.95% 7.4% APR. WE HAVE ALSO ASSUMED THAT A VALUATION FEE OF £145 HAS BEEN INCURRED. RATES QUOTED ARE VARIABLE. THE 1.7% DISCOUNT IS GUARANTEED UNTIL 31.03.99. APR SHOWN IS TYPICAL FOR A PEP MORTGAGE FOR 25 YEARS. DISCOUNTS FOR UP TO TWO, THREE OR FIVE YEARS ARE ONLY AVAILABLE FOR MORTGAGES APPLICATIONS RECEIVED ON OR AFTER 21.11.96 PROVIDED COMPLETION TAKES PLACE BY 31.03.97 AND ARE NOT AVAILABLE FOR RESIDENTIAL EQUITY CUSTOMERS. DISCOUNTS ARE SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY MAINTENANCE OF THE MORTGAGE ACCOUNT. ALL PRODUCTS AND OTHER OFFERS ARE SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY AND MAY BE WITHDRAWN WITHOUT NOTICE. MAXIMUM LEND 95% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION, WHICHEVER IS LOWER (75% FOR SECOND HOME LOANS AND EQUITY MORTGAGES). LOWER LIMITS APPLY WHERE THE PURCHASE PRICE AND VALUATION EXCEED £150,000. ADDITIONAL MORTGAGE SECURITY IS REQUIRED IF THE LOAN EXCEEDS OUR BASIC LENDING LIMIT OF 75% OF THE PURCHASE PRICE OR VALUATION, WHICHEVER IS LOWER, FOR WHICH A FEE WILL BE CHARGED. LOANS MUST BE SECURED BY A MORTGAGE, ARE SUBJECT TO SATISFACTORY APPRAISAL OF STATUS AND FINANCIAL STANDING AND ARE ONLY AVAILABLE TO PERSONS AGED 18 OR OVER. MONTHLY PAYMENTS MUST BE MADE BY HALIFAX PAYMENT PLAN OR FROM AN EXTERNAL CURRENT ACCOUNT BY DIRECT DEBIT. ANY LOAN SECURED ON AN APPLICANT'S EXISTING PROPERTY MUST NORMALLY BE REPAYED ON OR BEFORE COMPLETION OF THE NEW MORTGAGE. WRITTEN QUOTATIONS ON REQUEST FROM YOUR LOCAL OFFICE OR HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY, TRINITY ROAD, HALIFAX, WEST YORKSHIRE, HX1 2BQ.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. HALIFAX BUILDING SOCIETY REPRESENTS ONLY THE HALIFAX FINANCIAL SERVICES MARKETING GROUP (WHICH IS REGULATED BY THE PERSONAL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY) FOR LIFE ASSURANCE, PENSIONS AND UNIT TRUSTS.

Families to
how Dunt
gifts will be



Living danger
as Mother

STUFF THE SOC



Delia Smith has been called "the Volvo of cuisine — safe, reliable and totally organised"

TV and food brands are recipe for a chef's fortune

By ROBIN YOUNG

BRITAIN'S leading chefs are looking forward to becoming multimillionaires. In a nation apparently obsessed with food yet increasingly incapable of cooking it, the chef is king, and cooking it.

The media exposure enjoyed by chefs is reaching extraordinary proportions. With some 30 regular cookery programmes on terrestrial television and almost double that number on cable and satellite, chefs are too busy racing from studio to studio to have much time for their restaurant stoves.

Antony Worrall-Thompson, whose London restaurants include 190 Queensgate, dell'Ugo and Zee, said yesterday: "I was on 178 different programmes last year, yet I am not really up there at the top like the current favourites, *Two Fat Ladies*. Now they are really mega."

The most popular television chefs earn tens of thousands of pounds for each episode of their series and can add up to £100,000 from subsequent book sales. Advertising contracts are likely to be even more lucrative, with some estimates running as high as £200,000 for a national cam-



Fat ladies: Clarissa Dickson Wright and Jennifer Paterson

paign over a long period. Occasional television appearances net only hundreds of pounds.

The most commercially successful of the current crop of British chefs is Gary Rhodes, who recently quit the Greenhouse and People's Palace restaurants in London for a highly paid job with the industrial caterers Gardner Merchant and a lucrative contract advertising Tate & Lyle on television. His *Rhodes round Britain* television

series have also been a success in book form, and according to recent research his laddish presentation makes him familiar even to viewers who never cook.

Similarly popular among the culinarily incompetent is Keith Floyd, whose recent cookery television series have been one part travelogue, one part monologue and two parts another glass of wine. He has been rewarded with bountiful book sales, and though his Devon pub

business ran into money problems, he is further bankrolled by his Floyd on Bread endorsement which appears on bakery products sold in Safeway stores.

That is the way the future is likely to go, according to the advertising agency Leo Burnett. It has researched public attitudes to food and chefs and has decided that television chefs are "national brands in the making".

Mike Ainsworth, Burnett's business development director, said: "Nearly a fifth of the population cannot cook and are proud of it. They do not want to cook, but they still know and trust Gary Rhodes, Keith Floyd and Delia Smith." Smith, he says, "is the Volvo of British cuisine — safe, reliable, and totally organised". With her magazine tie-up with Sainsbury's she is, he believes, one of Britain's most fully developed chef-brands.

Others well-heeled in the business include the Roux Brothers (Michel is consultant to British Airways and Albert to enterprises as far away as Moscow), Raymond Blanc (consultant to Virgin Atlantic) and Anton Mosimann, who has an outside catering business and a range of fine foods and cookery products.



Gary Rhodes: his laddish presentation makes him familiar even to viewers who never cook

Families to hear how Dunblane gifts will be used

By SHIRLEY ENGLISH

FAMILIES of victims of the Dunblane massacre will be told this week how some of the £7 million given by well-wishers is to be spent.

Three separate funds set up after the March 13 murders at Dunblane Primary School have collected £7.3 million between them. The largest, the Dunblane Fund, now stands at £4.5 million.

The Dunblane Fund trustees are expected to make an announcement, possibly tomorrow, about their spending plans. They may also set a closing date for donations, which are still coming in.

Profits from the Dunblane single, a rerecording of the Bob Dylan song, *Knockin' on Heaven's Door*, which goes on sale today, will not be given to any of the tragedy funds. All proceeds from the sale of the song, featuring 14 Dunblane children, will go to Save the Children, ChildLine and the Children's Hospice Association of Scotland.

Trustees of the Dunblane Fund have commissioned two roses in memory of Gwen Mayor, the teacher who died,

and the children. Work has also just started on a £100,000 landscaped memorial garden at Dunblane Cemetery, where some of Thomas Hamilton's victims are buried. It is being jointly funded by the Dunblane Fund and the Stirling Observer Dunblane Help Fund, a charitable trust set up by the local paper, which currently stands at £1.7 million.

The Dunblane Fund's primary purpose is to provide compensation and relief to those affected by the tragedy. Some money has already been distributed in interim payments to families of the bereaved and injured. Details of the payments are being kept confidential. A decision on the final distribution of funds to affected families is said to be imminent.

The third fund, run by Dunblane Primary School Board and the Parent Teachers Association, stands at about £1.1 million. The board has carried out a survey of parents to find out how they want the money to be spent. Early suggestions included providing a range of educational facilities, including language laboratories, computers and science equipment.

Meanwhile, Frank Cook, Labour MP for Stockton North, will attempt to raise questions in Parliament today about Thomas Hamilton's links with the Masons. He will claim that the killer was a member in 1977 although he stopped attending lodge meetings in 1986. He will also question the role of Central Scotland Police in allowing Hamilton to build up his arsenal of weapons and ammunition.



Cook will ask about killer's Masonic links

Living dangerously as Mother Goose

By CAROL MIDDLEY

A HEALTH warning has been issued to Mother Goose, Cinderella and Dick Whittington. Doctors say the energetic nature of pantomime performances puts actors at much greater risk of injury such as hernias.

Dudley Rogg, a director at the British Hernia Centre in London, said the number of patients visiting his clinic "dramatically increased" during the panto season.

"It happens every year," Mr Rogg said. "We see an awful lot of actors coming in. It is really quite astonishing. Actors as a group are very macho, they have to leap and bound across the stage and hoist up their leading ladies."

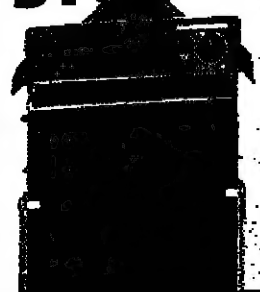
Most are anxious to keep it quiet because they don't want to lose the work.

Paul Elliot, whose production company is involved with 33 pantomimes this year, said: "Pantomime is jolly hard work. Sheer fatigue is one of the main problems but we do get quite a few injuries."

"I think the most tiring part though is Matthew Kelly's as Mother Goose at the Birmingham Hippodrome. He has got to go through 18 changes of costume, involving huge headresses then go up and down in a balloon. If anyone is a candidate for a hernia this year it's him."

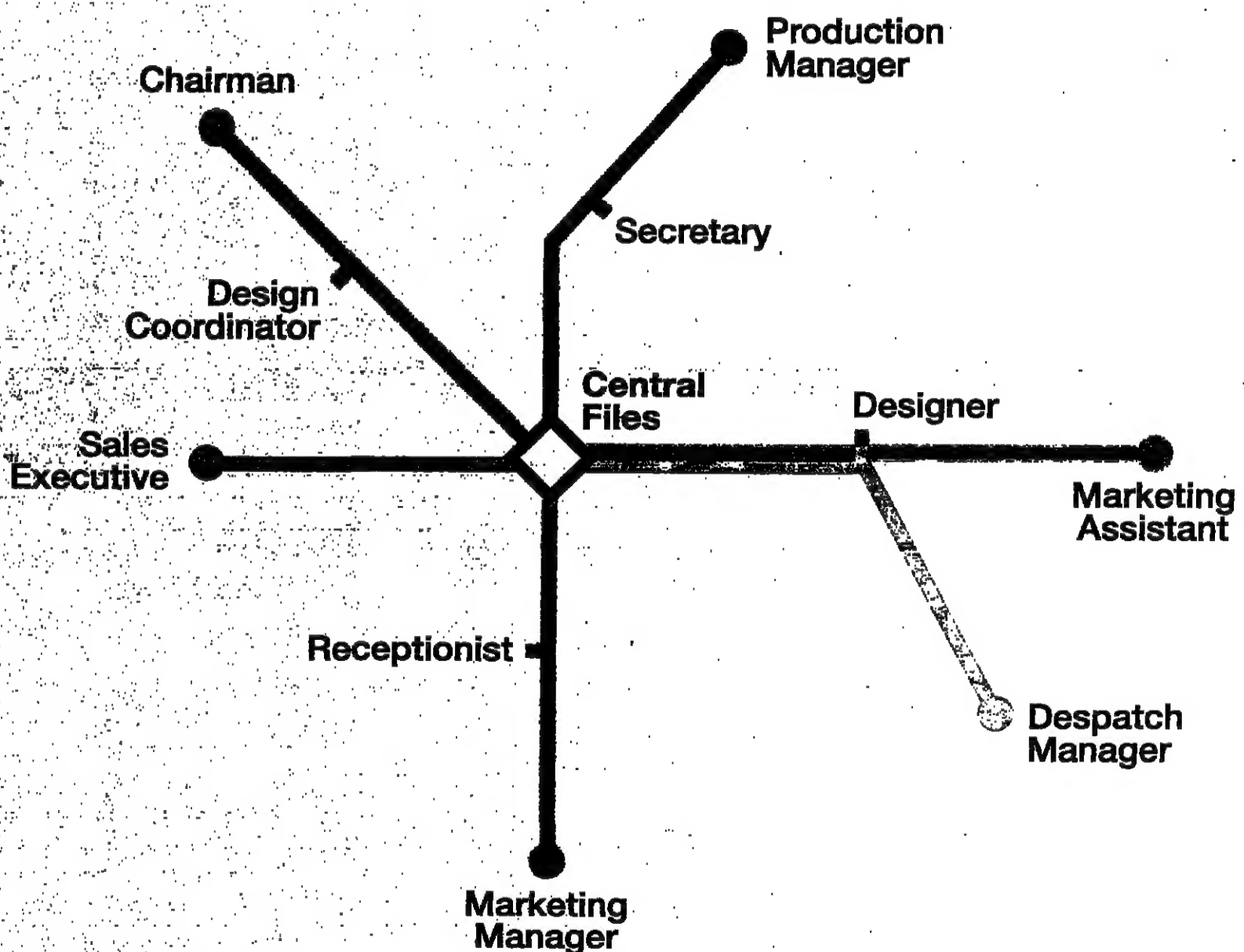
Leading article, page 21

STUFF THE SOCKS



Be original - give him a really smart Christmas present - a Corby Trousers Press. It makes both giver and receiver look good. Choose from a range of models, all with attractive finishes, at prices starting from around £76. For a leaflet and a list of local stockists call free 0800 220 351.

CORBY TROUSERS PRESS



Network your PCs and business moves faster

When you link your PCs, information flows. Goodbye gridlock. No more lost files, lost time, lost opportunities. Instead everyone has access to shared files and figures they need to keep business moving forward - at their fingertips, wherever they're stationed. And it's not just

access, it's the ability to input, to update and enrich the information everyone shares, and to send and receive documents. Linking PCs saves time. (It can save money on printers and software too.) Call **BT Businessconnections** to find out how, on Freephone 0800 800 800.

Freefone 0800 800 800

PC TO PC

Freephone 0800 800 855 e-mail: worksmarter@bt.co.uk

Work smarter
not just harder

BT

Sunday shoppers join £23bn festive spending spree

BY HARVEY ELLIOTT

SHOPS were last night counting takings substantially up on last year's, after Britain went on what traders called the biggest pre-Christmas shopping spree in almost a decade.

Not since the 1980s have shops been so full, with customers prepared to dig deeper than ever into their cash and credit. Out-of-town shopping malls reported takings at least 15 per cent up on last year, even though the number of shoppers was only 3 per cent more.

Although the Christmas rush appeared to have started later this year, it gathered speed yesterday as millions of stores took advantage of the permitted six hours' Sunday opening. John Bryson, manager of Metro Centre, Britain's biggest out-of-town shopping mall, near Gateshead, said that at least 30,000 people passed through the doors after they opened at 11am. They spent an average of £125 each, compared with last year's £110, he said.

At the Lakeside shopping complex at Thurrock, Essex, the earliest shoppers arrived

soon after 7am for the 11am start. Chris Fear, the manager, said: "The car parks have been full every day for weeks and both Saturday and Sunday were no exception. Most nights we have been kicking people out at the 10pm closing time and we have done about 40 per cent of our business after 5.30pm."

A survey suggests that Britain will spend £23.5 billion on presents, food and drink this year, £700 million more than last. The study, for the property consultants Healey and Baker, found that children could expect to receive presents worth about £7 billion, compared with £6.6 billion on adult presents and £6.9 billion on food and drink.

The Welsh and Scots are the most generous to their children, expecting to spend £202 and £200 a head respectively on presents for them, compared to the national average of £155. The Welsh indicate they will spend most in total at £650, £133 more than the average. Londoners expect to spend the least at £459.

The Welsh also topped the list on food, saying they will

spend £127, while Scots were at the bottom, predicting £91 against a national average of £108.

Retailers say there appears to have been a return to high-quality, high-priced gifts. So many personal computers and electronic games are being sold that major industrialists and military equipment manufacturers are said to face a shortage of microchips.

Chris Ward, a technology consultant, said: "During the summer, the price fell as production increased. But now the price has gone up by 50 per cent because of the huge increase in demand from individuals. It is very hard for aircraft manufacturers or missile contractors to obtain sufficient supply of the more powerful 16 or 32 megabyte chips."

The toy most in demand is a model of Buzz Lightyear, one of the heroes of the Disney film *Toy Story*. So many have been sold that many toy shops have run out of supplies. Harrods in central London said: "We have been told we will have no more in stock before Christmas."

RAF ace defends Bader from TV flak

BY MICHAEL EVANS
DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

THE most successful Spitfire pilot of the Second World War hit back yesterday at wartime associates of Sir Douglas Bader who criticise the *Battle of Britain* ace in a new television documentary.

Air Vice-Marshal Johnnie Johnson, who shot down 38 German fighters, described Bader as "the greatest Englishman I ever knew".

A "warts and all" documentary on the famous pilot who, after losing both legs in a flying accident, flew in the *Battle of Britain* with tin ones, is to be shown tonight on Channel 4 as part of *Secret Lives*. Johnnie Johnson was a 22-year-old pilot officer during the *Battle of Britain* when Bader was his wing commander.

The television documentary portrays Bader as a bloody-minded egomaniac who tried to land it over his fellow officers. Most of his fellow prisoners in Colditz, where Bader was held after being captured by the Germans, were said to have hated him because of his "wild pranks".

Air Vice-Marshal Johnson, 81, is one of the few surviving Spitfire pilots who flew with Bader and he remembers him with awe and affection. "I would compare him with Drake and Nelson. He was a splendid man."

Alex Ross, Bader's medical orderly at Colditz, says he had to carry Bader up and down flights of stone steps in the prison every day and was never thanked. He also says he was prevented by Bader from leaving Colditz in an exchange of medical personnel. Air Vice-Marshal Johnson said yesterday: "Who is this medical orderly? I've never heard of him and what gives him the right to criticise someone like Bader?"

He added: "He was an inspirational leader. He had the qualities of leadership that made it possible to do what we did." He admitted that Bader could sometimes have a rough tongue if pilots made mistakes. "But it was soon forgotten."



Air Vice-Marshal Johnson, top left, with Bader in 1982, three months before he died, and Bader climbing into his Spitfire in 1945 for a victory flypast

Quiz has solicitors guessing who broke the bed

BY RICHARD FORD

A SCURRILOUS Christmas quiz disclosing sexual liaisons and drug-taking within City of London legal firms has triggered a guessing game among solicitors anxious to identify the prime suspects.

The questionnaire has been compiled from gossip gathered during the past year from solicitors willing to dish the dirt on colleagues and rivals. The 25-question quiz published in *Legal Business* magazine highlights alleged sexual antics, drunkenness and drug-taking but offers no prizes for the correct answers.

Question 1 asks: "Which City firm's chief executive stood up to make a speech at MIPIM (a trade fair) this year and promptly fell over because he was so drunk?"

Another asks which partner took a secretary to his home in Islington, north London, and proceeded to break the bed. The magazine's readers are also asked which partner was allegedly discovered in *flamante delicto* in the lavatory of a Birmingham restaurant. Too difficult? Then the magazine asked which partner in a City firm withdrew thousands of pounds from his bank, took the money home and rolled around naked in it, or which partner declared to his colleagues that he had made so much money in his last deal he was going to have a vital part of his anatomy cast in gold.

Or there are the questions asking at which law firm's party a journalist was offered cocaine, and which solicitor was arrested for dealing in Ecstasy.

Catrina Griffiths, editor of the magazine, said yesterday that the quiz was a bit of light relief, and that because lawyers had to be so controlled in court or in dealing with clients, they had a tendency to let their hair down when off-duty. "There are always two or three partners in most firms who are, shall we say, more experimental and wild in their behaviour than the rest."

Ms Griffiths said she had received no complaints but had been surprised by the number of people calling her wanting the answers.

Makers defend kit that puts a punch into pop

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

THE makers of a do-it-yourself "alcopop" kit rejected demands yesterday for it to be withdrawn from shops, where it can be bought by children.

The alcohol-booster Splooch turns soft drinks into the equivalent of strong lager. On the front of the £4.99 kit is a cartoon logo showing two eyes looking the worse for drink.

Richard Danby, technical director of the makers, Continental Wine Experts in Norwich, said: "It is intended for the alcopop market. It is meant to be the home-brew equivalent but we are certainly not targeting under-age drinkers. It takes ten days to

brew and that is a considerable disincentive."

"This product takes a lot of patience and planning, like any home-brew kit. We will take on board all the comments although we are unlikely to withdraw it."

The company also produces beer-making kits which, like Splooch, are not covered by licensing laws. A Splooch kit makes the equivalent of 27 standard 330ml bottles containing 5 per cent alcohol by volume. It also includes instructions saying that adding the booster to wines and beers could produce an alcohol content of up to 15 per cent.

Nigel Griffiths, Labour's consumer affairs spokesman, said he would write to Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, asking for Splooch to be banned.

A spokesman for the Portman Group, the brewing industry's self-regulatory body, said it had contacted the British Retail Consortium to advise its members to consider whether they should sell the product. "We would urge the manufacturers to rethink the packaging. There is nothing wrong with Splooch in itself but we are against cartoon-type packaging which might be attractive to adolescents."

Court plea to cut £20m police bill for damages

BY STEWART TENDLER
CRIME CORRESPONDENT

SCOTLAND YARD is going to the Court of Appeal today in an attempt to cut back on the damages awarded against the Metropolitan Police in a series of cases. The Yard is also seeking guidelines for juries hearing actions against the police.

Two cases will be heard over two days in the court of the Master of the Rolls Lord Woolf, and lawyers for Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, could put forward challenges on another seven cases.

The actions come after mounting concern by Sir Paul and senior officers at the scale of damages. In 1995 Scotland Yard paid out £1.5 million in damages, compared with £393,000 in 1986. Awards and costs are estimated to have cost the Metropolitan Police £20 million in the past ten years.

The Yard is challenging the award of £220,000 in March to Kenneth Hsu, 32, a hairdresser, who said he was wrongly arrested and assaulted after refusing to let police into his home in Streatham, southwest London, without a search warrant. It is also challenging the £51,000 for Claudette Thompson, 30, in June last year for assault and battery and false imprisonment.

David Pannick, QC, is appearing for Scotland Yard and the cases are the first of a series which could stretch into next year. The legal argument is likely to centre on the use of exemplary damages to punish and deter.

In a number of the cases where large awards have been made no action was taken against the officers concerned. The Yard would argue the awards were excessive.

Further cases that could go before the court include the record award of £302,000 to Daniel Goswell, 29, after he was hit with a truncheon while handcuffed and £150,000 in June to two Kurdish political refugees, Hacı Bozkurt and Baki Ates.

Lawyers join forces to help child-sex victims

BY FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

LAWYERS led by Cherie Booth, QC, are spearheading a campaign to help child-sex victims through undercover investigations of paedophile networks and reforms to criminal trials.

They have lent their backing to the Justice for Children project run by the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children, and seeking to raise £3 million for its work.

The lawyers steering the campaign — to be launched officially in January next month — include Sir Stephen Brown, the head of the High Court family division, Lord Borrie, formerly Director General of Fair Trading, and Robert Ayling, chief executive of British Airways, and a Lovell White Durrant, and Macfarlanes are also represented.

A programme of action is already under way. The NSPCC has a small team of social workers involved in undercover investigations of organised paedophile networks in London, in conjunction with the Metropolitan Police, but they have a limited budget and urgently need greater funding.

With the backing of the lawyers, the Justice for Children project is also making a training video for judges on how to deal with children in sex-abuse cases. The video, developed with the Judicial Studies Board but with substantial funding from the NSPCC, will be launched in the new year.

The lawyers are also supporting moves to secure reforms to the trial process.



Sir Stephen: helping to steer campaign

These could see children cross-examined in judges' chambers, where no wigs or gowns are worn; reductions in delays in the hearing of child abuse cases, which average 10 months; improved facilities so that video links are the norm; waiting areas where children are not at risk of facing defendants.

Margaret McCabe, a barrister who with Ms Booth is joint organiser of the campaign to involve the legal

profession, said: "Many children feel that the court ordeal is worse than the original abuse. The extent of the problem is massive — we see one paedophilia case in chambers a week. And one paedophile can do harm to perhaps perhaps six to ten children."

She acknowledged there was concern, even hostility, within some quarters of the legal profession. "Some of the criminal Bar, while sympathetic, are also concerned about not putting the interests of justice, the interests of a fair trial, at risk," she said.

The NSPCC said much had been done to help to prepare children for the court, now work was needed to prepare courts for children. Neil Hunt, London regional director, welcomed the involvement of the legal profession. "It is obviously partly about fund-raising but also about promoting our policies as well as backing operational work."

Last week the charity Childline reported the trauma of many who report incidents. There were about 54,000 protection referrals for sexual abuse in 1994 but fewer than 500 convictions.

WEEKENDER PLUS-WINTER SPECIAL

8 DECEMBER 1996 - 31 JANUARY 1997
209 HOTELS - 146 DESTINATIONS

GREAT VALUE WEEKEND BREAKS
ACROSS EUROPE AND FURTHER AFIELD
NOW ALSO AVAILABLE MID-WEEK

FROM ONLY £40** PER ROOM
PER NIGHT

BREAKFAST INCLUDED

*at most hotels until 28 February 1997
**available in 13 hotels

Holiday Inn

FOR RESERVATIONS AND FURTHER INFORMATION
CALL TOLL-FREE

0800 897 121

Cheaper
Car
Insurance
ADMIRAL
Call now
0800 600 800

AND 1^p PER MINUTE CALLS
(SEE, MERCURY WAS ALWAYS A WISE MOVE.)

On Christmas Day and New Year's Day, all long distance calls to anywhere in the UK will cost just 1p per minute. And all international calls will be charged at economy rate. It's our little

gift to all our Mercury customers. If you are not with Mercury, but you'd like to enjoy 1p per minute calls this Christmas, call us now on Freecall 0500 200 950 and let's talk turkey.

A CABLE & WIRELESS COMPANY

MERCURY COMMUNICATIONS

All prices include VAT at 17.5%. All calls have a 3.5p connection charge. Offers exclude Voucher Calls and Business Calls. Mercury SmartCall or UK-Call is subject to rates and Mercury's standard terms and conditions.

FX1TM 04

C of E
congr
overtal

Food poison
bill rises to n
shop staff fal

Bank sued over in
negative equilib

C of E halts fall in congregations to overtake Catholics

By Ruth Gledhill
RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

SUNDAY attendance at the Church of England is set to overtake that of the Roman Catholic Church for the first time in recent history. Figures for the congregations for England and Wales suggest that the Anglicans will now ahead by about 1,000.

Although the Church of England is the established church and still baptises, marries and buries most of the country's Christian population, it has traditionally lagged behind in the number of people in the pews.

Tables in the *Catholic Directory 1997* show a drop of 55,000 in the average Mass attendance between 1994 and 1995, more than the number of churchgoing Catholics in the whole of Wales. While 1.19 million went in 1994, this fell to 1.135 million last year.

Figures for last year are not yet available for the Church of England. The latest attendance figures for England and Wales, for 1994, give an average Sunday turnout of 1.136 million. That is still marginally below the Catholic figures for 1994 but statisticians say the differing rate of decline in each church means that the Anglicans will inch ahead this year or next.

Now members of both churches are anxiously awaiting the Anglican Church figures for last year, due to be published early in the new year.

The new Catholic Church figures show that the number of Catholic baptisms in 1995

Church of England (average Sunday attendance)	1994	1995
Church of England (average Sunday attendance)	1,194,000	1,135,000
Roman Catholic Church in England (average Mass attendance)	1994	1995
Roman Catholic Church in England (average Mass attendance)	1,141,604	1,087,589
Church of England and Wales (average Sunday attendance)	1994	1995
Church of England and Wales (average Sunday attendance)	1,154,000	1,136,000
Roman Catholic Church of England and Wales (average Mass attendance)	1994	1995
Roman Catholic Church of England and Wales (average Mass attendance)	1,194,000	1,135,000

also fell, from 75,236 to 74,848 and the number of marriages from 18,344 to 17,294. The number of Catholic parish churches has increased by 27, from 2,829 to 2,856.

Unlike in the Anglican Church, where the decline that has been a feature since the 1960s has slowed, the rate of decline in the Catholic Church is accelerating. According to recent research by Cofed, the Catholic overseas development agency, the next decade will see a drop by at least half of today's Mass attendance to fewer than 600,000.

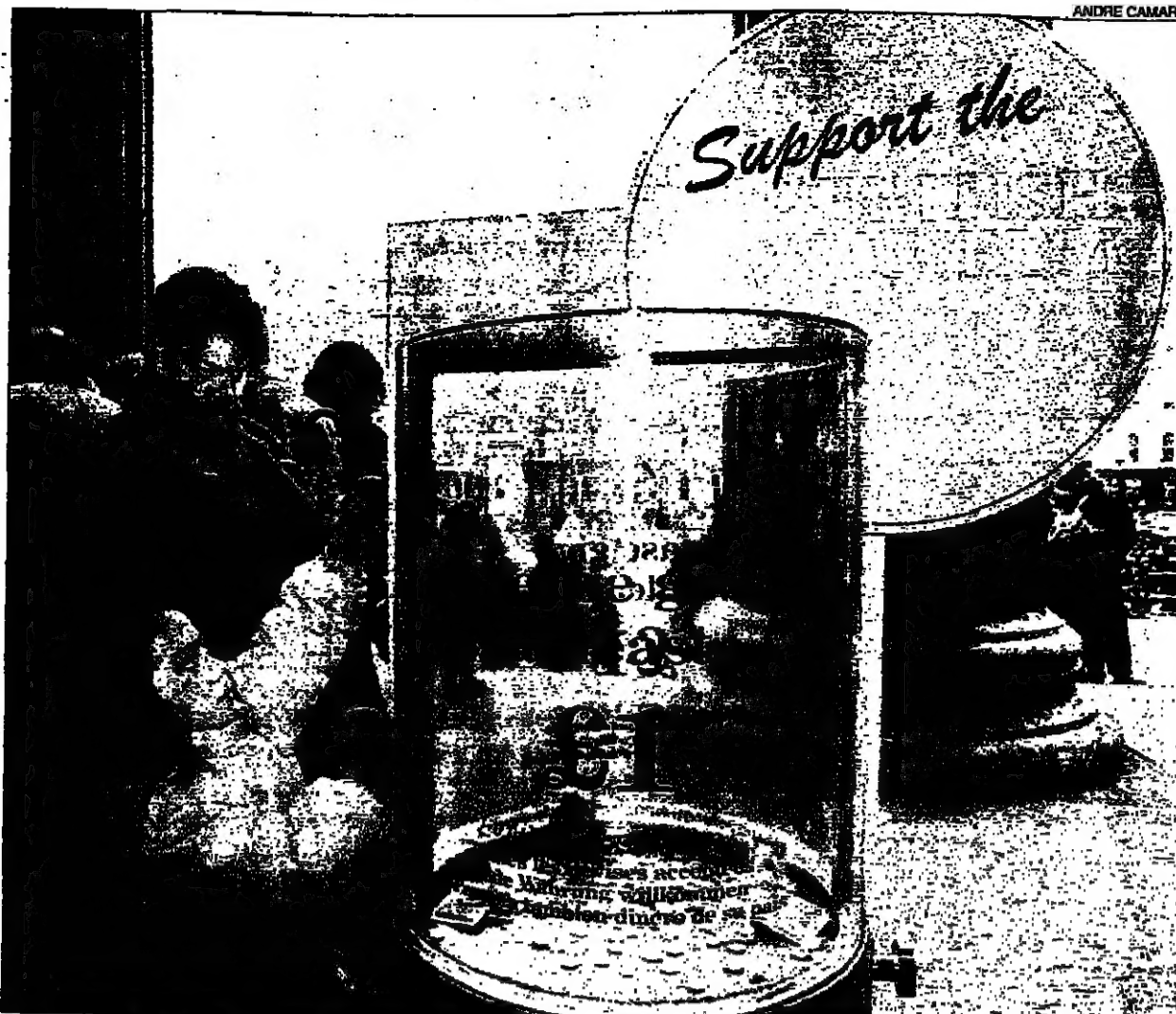
Anglicans, however, believe their decline has bottomed out and figures over the past few years have shown attendance remaining roughly steady.

In the Catholic Church, where weekly mass attendance was once considered compulsory, churchgoing peaked at more than two

million in the late 1960s. Churchgoing in the Church of England was then at 1.6 million. Figures for Wales are not available but are thought to have stood at about 120,000, leaving the Anglicans far behind the Catholics.

The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield, said: "The Church of England is livelier and spiritually more healthy than it has been for some time. It gives me no joy to witness declining numbers in our sister Catholic Church. The denominations head each other to be strong so that together we can witness to the gospel in an unbelieving world."

Monsignor Kieran Conry, of the Catholic Media Office, said: "I am pleased for the Anglicans if numbers are picking up. We have had more people in church for some years but that was more to do with the decline in Anglican practice than any growth in the Catholic mass attendance."



A little help but a long way to go: a weekend visitor reaches to make a donation at the British Museum

Job fears at British Museum

By Damian Whitworth

THE British Museum may make job cuts and slash departmental budgets after ruling out admission charges in the immediate future.

The trustees met at the weekend to discuss a report from Andrew Edwards, a former deputy secretary in the Treasury, which said that the museum's finances were in disarray and predicted a £25 million shortfall over the next three years. He recommended an admission fee of £5 or £6 to raise £8 million a year.

A statement from the trustees said they had rejected admission fees for the time being but "the introduction cannot be ruled out". They added: "All areas of expenditure and income generation are being appraised, including staff levels. It is inevitable that there will have to be some curtailment of activity but the trustees are determined to continue to provide a good level of service."

The new British Library may consider charges. Dr Brian Lang, chief executive, is reported to have told staff of his intention to investigate the implications of charging.

Food poison death toll rises to nine as shop staff fall sick

By Shirley English

A NINTH pensioner has died in Scotland's food poisoning epidemic, which is now affecting 386 people. The latest victim, an elderly woman who has not been named, died after being released from Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary on Friday.

She had been recovering from the *E. coli* 0157 infection and her condition had improved enough for her to go to a nursing home.

It emerged over the weekend that seven staff at the award-winning butcher's shop thought to be the source of the food poisoning outbreak have shown symptoms of being infected with the *E. coli* 0157 bacteria.

North Lanarkshire environmental health officers said the workers became infected after the outbreak and were not carrying the bug while serving in the Wishaw shop of John M. Barr & Son. Mr Barr employs about 40 staff.

Out of the 386 people now affected by apparent food poisoning, 204 have now been confirmed as having *E. coli* 0157. Sixteen adults being treated at Monklands Hospital, Airdrie, and an elderly woman transferred to Stobhill Hospital from Falkirk and District Royal Infirmary, are seriously ill.

Lanarkshire Health Board launched a health awareness campaign this weekend to warn the public how they can best minimise the risk of food poisoning. Thousands of leaf-

lets, *E. coli* - Advice To You, have been distributed in Lanarkshire, the area worst affected by the outbreak, at football grounds, shopping precincts, markets, hospitals and in churches.

The 11-point message, which includes practical advice on storage of meat and personal hygiene, will be reinforced by adverts in local newspapers this week.

Health experts believe there is no longer any potential risk from the 82 outlets supplied by the Wishaw butcher, providing no cooked meats or meat products from Barr's shop remain on these premises. Affected stores are said to have been thoroughly cleaned and the environmental health department is "satisfied that the potential risk of the transmission of *E. coli* 0157 from having stocked Mr Barr's products no longer exists".

It has emerged meanwhile that an antidote to the *E. coli* bacteria, developed in Canada, is due to begin trials in Britain next year. Lanarkshire Health Board said, however, that the current outbreak featured a particularly severe strain of *E. coli* and it was not yet known if the antidote would be effective against it.

On Teesside this weekend a 90-year-old woman infected with *E. coli* 0157 died. It was also confirmed that another pensioner on Teesside was being treated for the bacteria. Neither case is linked to the Scottish epidemic.

Bank sued over home's negative equilibrium

By Paul Wilkinson

A WOMAN is suing Barclays Bank and its surveyors over a hole that threatens to engulf her home. Already part of Jane Britton's garage has slipped into it and she has spent £4,000 tipping tons of rubble into the hole to prevent her three-bedroomed house going the same way.

Problems began within weeks of the family moving into the £55,000 house in Ripon, north Yorkshire, two years ago. The front garden subsided, leaving a hole 20ft wide and 10ft deep.

Mrs Britton, 31, had not been told that the seven-year-old house had been built over gypsum deposits, which dissolve on contact with water. She said: "I asked for a structural survey, the bank's surveyor didn't spot it. When I first saw it, I just screamed."

Despite the rubble the hole keeps re-appearing, each time bigger than before. Mrs

Britton, who lives with Eddie Newcombe and their two children, Charlotte, 9, and Charlie, 8, said: "What we have now is a house that is worthless and a problem with the land that threatens to literally swallow us up."

The hardcore costs £2,000 a time. She said: "The insurance company has paid up five times and I have paid the bill twice but it can't keep going on like this for much longer." Her insurers are now refusing to pay because they say it is a natural disaster.

The British Geological Survey has produced a report which claims that the problem was known about as far back as 1968. Mrs Britton is claiming £200,000 from Barclays - which advanced her £20,000 mortgage - their surveyors and the previous owner. A preliminary High Court date has been fixed for later this month.

OLD GLENN MALT WHISKY

Old Glenn Speyside 70cl
VAT FREE PRICE £11.64

Old Glenn Islay 70cl
VAT FREE PRICE £11.64

Old Glenn Highland 70cl
VAT FREE PRICE £11.64

MALT WHISKY

Glenfiddich Malt Whisky 70cl
VAT FREE PRICE £14.87

The Glenlivet Malt Whisky 70cl
VAT FREE PRICE £15.04

Glenmorangie Malt Whisky 70cl
VAT FREE PRICE £15.89

ASDA

VAT FREE ZONE

17.5% VAT OFF BUBBLY & MALTS THIS WEEK

This week only, we'll pay the VAT on ALL champagne, sparkling wine and malt whisky, not just the examples shown above. So you can pocket savings like this:

	NORMAL PRICE	YOU PAY	SAVE
Glenmorangie Malt Whisky 70cl	£18.69	£15.89	£2.80

But hurry, our VAT FREE ZONE closes on Sunday 15th December.

FOR DETAILS OF WHERE YOUR LOCAL STORE IS AND OPENING TIMES, CALL FREEPAGES 0800 192 192

OFFER EXCLUDED: SEMI-SPARKLING WINE, SPARKLING PERRY, BLENDED WHISKY AND MINIS. ALL PRODUCTS SUBJECT TO AVAILABILITY. OFFER IS LIMITED TO 60 BOTTLES OF CHAMPAGNE OR SPARKLING WINE AND 10 BOTTLES OF MALT WHISKY PER PERSON.

CHAMPAGNE

ASDA Champagne Brut/Rose 75cl
VAT FREE PRICE £16.19

Champagne Mercier Brut NV 75cl
VAT FREE PRICE £12.59

ASDA Vintage Champagne 75cl
VAT FREE PRICE £16.14

SPARKLING WINE

ASDA Cava Brut/Rosado 75cl
VAT FREE PRICE £3.31

ASDA Asti Spumante 75cl
VAT FREE PRICE £3.82

Scharffenberger Brut 75cl
VAT FREE PRICE £8.07

ASDA

POCKET THE DIFFERENCE

www.asda.co.uk

Falkland Islands fear for future under Labour

FROM MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR, IN PORT STANLEY

TODAY is Battle Day in the Falkland Islands, the anniversary of the fierce naval engagement in 1914 when the Royal Navy destroyed a large German fleet under the command of Admiral von Spee moored off the Falklands.

But as the islanders celebrate with parades, games and a public holiday, many are wondering whether they will soon have to fight a new battle with a Labour government determined to nudge them into closer relations with Argentina. Their worries have been provoked by a statement from Tony Lloyd, a Labour foreign affairs spokesman, during a recent visit here where he urged the islanders to forge closer relations with Buenos Aires and prepare for a normalisation of contacts. He also condemned as "an absurd anomaly" the current ban on Argentine passport holders entering the islands.

Mr Lloyd's remarks touched raw nerves. Older

Falklanders, with bitter memories of the 1982 invasion, are determined to have nothing to do with Argentina. They see no reason why anyone holding an Argentine passport should be allowed to land as long as the Menem Government makes a constitutional claim on the islands' sovereignty.

"If someone is coming to steal everything in your house, you don't let him in by the front door" is a common sentiment.

Many are nervous, however, that a future Labour government would push harder than the Conservatives for normalisation. They also recognise that, although Labour wishes for self-determination are paramount, they do not want this distant dependent territory to be seen as a "Tory trophy". Margaret Thatcher's triumphant identification with the Falkland cause makes most people here wary of Labour.

Yesterday, however, the church ceremonies were as robust as ever, touching as always on the other key date here, June 14 or Liberation Day. Volunteers from the Falkland Islands Defence Force drew up a guard of honour around the 1914 War memorial as Richard Rait, the Governor, in plumes and full ceremonial dress, reassured Britain's commitment and laid a memorial wreath. The little force, of around 90 men and four women has no doubt that it would play a vital role in defending Port Stanley, were there ever to be another invasion.

Most islanders, however, see no imminent threat and are comforted by the daily sight of RAF Tornado jets streaking across the bleak moorland on training flights from the base at Mount Pleasant. Commanders of the three British services based here see no immediate danger from Argentina, but say that without 24-hour radar surveillance and constant preparedness, headline nationalists in Argentina might be tempted once again to mount a military expedition.

Falkland Islanders are more worried by a peaceful civilian expedition of tourists. Already a large number of Argentinians come here travelling on other passports. The headline councillors say that allowing free entry to anyone would create a dangerous precedent and give up the Falklands' only leverage.

There is even a lingering resentment that a second visit here by the close relatives of more than 250 Argentinians buried on a windswept hill near Goose Green is to go ahead next month. The families will be kept hidden away in a hotel disused for two years and will not be allowed to stay more than one night.

"It's far too early to let them all come back," one islander said. He said many people wanted to see whether the new agreement with Buenos Aires on fishing and oil exploration would work properly before further normalisation could be contemplated.



Falkland Islanders fear a second Argentine invasion



Small investors protest outside the stock exchange in Dhaka yesterday over the sudden fall in share prices. They are demanding intervention by the state

Protest closes Dhaka bourse

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN DHAKA

A DEMONSTRATION by roadside traders yesterday outside the Dhaka Stock Exchange forced the suspension of trading for the second consecutive day, officials said.

Trading in the bourse has been suspended because brokers could not turn up due to the continued sit-in demonstration by the traders," an official in Dhaka said.

The protesters also obstructed stock exchange staff and officials trying to enter the

bourse building in Dhaka's Motijheel commercial district. The unauthorised roadside market traders began their sit-in on Saturday to press their demands to revive the share market to its previous bullish trading.

The traders, aggrieved by a big slide in share prices, blamed brokers for manipulating the market and demanded action.

They also demanded transparency in stock exchange trading and the inclusion of

government representatives and roadside market traders on the bourse council.

The composite price index of the bourse closed at 2,618.35 points, down 1.83 per cent or 48.80 points, at the start of the week on Saturday, when trading had to be suspended.

Police drive: Health officials vaccinated millions of Bangladeshi children yesterday in the campaign to stamp out polio by inoculating a total of 20 million children. (Reuters)

Forgery charge in cave art dispute

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

A FRENCH official has been charged with forgery amid accusations of a state-orchestrated plot to defraud potholers who uncovered the world's most spectacular set of prehistoric cave paintings.

Patrice Béghain, 52, was last week accused of falsifying documents in an attempt to demonstrate that the French Government should reap financial benefits from the 30,000-year-old Chauvet cave in the Ardèche region. He denies the charge.

The cave contains the most extensive collection of prehistoric art yet found, including 600 vivid paintings of mammoths, reindeer, bison, panthers and two rhinoceroses locked in head-to-head combat. With its potential as a multi-million franc tourist attraction, "la grotte Chauvet", 40 miles northwest of Avignon, is at the centre of a legal imbroglio involving the Culture Ministry, the potholers who revealed its existence, and local landowners.

Observers say it will remain closed for some time as a multitude of cases come before the courts. The principal action was brought against the French state by Jean-Marie Chauvet, the man who stumbled upon the cavern while potholing with friends on Christmas Eve in 1994.

A national archaeological service employee, M Chauvet says there are "no words to describe the unimaginable scale of walls completely covered with paintings". He says he should enjoy a share of the benefits from the sale of photographs and, possibly, future tourist revenue.

The Culture Ministry disagrees, saying he should get nothing because he works for the state, which was thus responsible for the discovery and its financial spin-offs. M Béghain, head of the regional directorate of cultural affairs, produced a document to show that M Chauvet had been on a government mission at the time of his find.

But last week, the Lyons-based investigating judge, Gilbert Emery, charged the official with falsifying the document, lending weight to M Chauvet's claims of a plot.

African delegation wins truce

Bangui: Rebel soldiers and forces loyal to the Central African Republic's President, Ange-Félix Patasse, have agreed to a two-week truce and to allow time for the introduction of a ten-point peace plan, a delegation of African leaders said here.

Under the truce, which takes immediate effect, the sides retain their weapons and will remain in the positions they now hold, pending the application of the peace plan.

Sources close to the republic's ruling MLPC party say about 100 people have died since the unrest began on November 15. The mutineers wanted the resignation of President Patasse, whom they accuse of high treason. (AFP)

5,000 arrested

Delhi: More than 5,000 people were detained after protests as Jayaram Jayalalitha, 48, the former Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu state, was arrested in Madras on a corruption charge. (Reuters)

Memorial call

Berlin: Gays here have called for a memorial to mark the Nazis' attempt to wipe out homosexuals. Estimates put the number of "pink triangle" victim at between 10,000 and 15,000. (Reuters)

Ministers quit

Kathmandu: The Government of Sher Bahadur Deuba, Nepal's Prime Minister, appeared in jeopardy after seven ministers resigned and opposition Communists demanded a no-confidence vote. (Reuters)

Athlete deported

Jerusalem: Vladimir Ivanovski, a weightlifter on the Israeli Olympic team who is from Siberia, is being deported for fraudulently obtaining citizenship by paying an Israeli woman to marry him. (AP)

Hanging on

Tokyo: Japan plans to put 20 stationary airships 125 miles up in the stratosphere as radio relay stations for mobile telephones to counter its problems as a mountainous country, a newspaper reported. (AFP)

Christmas Shopping Made Easy!

Give us a jingle, and have a top-quality PC delivered to your door in two shakes of a reindeer's tail. If you call Gateway 2000, or freephone 0800-74-2000 and order a standard P5-133 Multimedia while stocks last - sorry no configuration changes allowed - we'll dispatch your PC within 24 hours of cleared payment. Just think, your Christmas shopping will be done weeks ahead of time!

Your Gateway 2000 system will arrive in our famous cow-spotted boxes, all ready to be tucked under the tree! Each system comes pre-loaded with an exciting Microsoft software bundle plus free-telephone support for as long as you own your system! On all hardware and pre-installed software. And just like all the best Christmas gifts, every system comes with a 30-day money-back guarantee (shipping costs not refundable). It's truly a gift that will last long after the holidays are over.

When you're out and about, call into our Covent Garden Showroom located at 10 Bedford Street, WC2E, where you can find out more about our complete range of PCs. And every Thursday evening, in December until Christmas, we're open until 8.30 p.m.

Gateway 2000 - the right spot for Christmas shopping. Give our friendly sales team a call today!

Showroom Hours of Business:
10.00 am - 8.30 pm
12.00 pm - 8.30 pm

P5-133 MULTIMEDIA

- Intel® 133MHz Pentium® Processor
- 16MB High Performance SDRAM
- 256KB Pipeline Burst Cache
- 3.5" Floppy Disk Drive
- Mitsumi 12X CD-ROM
- Western Digital® 2.5GB EIDE Hard Drive
- Integrated Creative Labs FM Sound Card with Altec® Lansing ACS41 Speakers
- Integrated ATI GT 3D 2MB SGRAM Graphics Accelerator
- 15" CrystalScan® Monitor
- Desktop Case
- Windows® 95 125 AnyKey® Programmable Keyboard
- Microsoft® Mouse
- MS Windows 95
- MS Generations Software Bundle
- Games Bundle
- 3 Year Limited Warranty

£1149 (£1384.15 inc. VAT & Delivery)

GATEWAY2000

"You've got a friend in the business."

0800 74 2000

http://www.gw2k.co.uk

Gateway 2000, Clonsilla Industrial Estate, Dublin 17, Ireland.

Configurations and prices are subject to change without notice. ©1996 Gateway 2000 Europe. Creative Labs, Microsoft and other product names are trademarks of their respective owners. Gateway 2000 is a registered trademark of Gateway 2000, Inc. The Intel Inside Logo, Intel and Pentium are trademarks of Intel Corporation. Gateway standard practice is to replace components for the life of the product. All other components are subject to normal wear and tear. All other trademarks are the property of their respective owners.

Next time somebody tries to sell you a personal pension, ask them these tough questions.

- 1) Are your charges among the lowest in the business?
Some pension companies could take almost a fifth of your retirement fund in charges*. Virgin Direct's charges are amongst the lowest in the industry.
- 2) How much of my money are you personally going to take in commission?
People are often appalled at how much of their money disappears in commission. Virgin Direct refuse to employ salesmen or pay commission.
- 3) When I need to change the amount I save, will I be penalised in any way?
Many pension plans advertised as 'flexible' allow you to make changes but charge you through the nose for the privilege. With the Virgin Personal Pension you can stop, start, increase or decrease the amount you save and you won't have to pay a penalty for doing so.
- 4) How does the performance of your pension funds compare with the FT-SE Actuaries' All-Share Index?
This is the investment industry's most widely used benchmark. Very few fund managers keep pace with it. Many fall disastrously short.

Virgin Direct championed 'index tracking', the success of which is now the biggest source of embarrassment to fund managers.

3) Once I've bought your pension, will I ever hear from you again?
Some companies you'll hardly hear from. Others you'll never see the back of! Virgin Direct write to you twice a year to tell you how your pension is performing. If you wish, we'll also contact you once a year to make sure you're still on track and to see if there is anything you need to change. You're always in control.

If you'd like to know more about the Virgin Personal Pension, do give us a call. Tell us how much you would like to tuck away each month and we'll send you a personalised information pack.

0345 95 95 95

Open seven days a week from 9am to 10pm

*Source: Savings Market, Summer 1996.

Virgin Direct Personal Financial Services Ltd is regulated by the Financial Services Authority. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to the future. The price of units and any income from them can go down as well as up and you may not get back the money you invest. The basis of tax may change and the value of the tax benefit depends on how much tax you pay. For your security all calls to Virgin Direct are recorded and randomly monitored.

Clinton claims fall of two million in people on welfare

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton has hailed and claimed credit for a fall of 2.1 million in the number of people receiving welfare since he took office four years ago. In a move which will reignite controversy over welfare reforms.

"This is the biggest drop in the welfare rolls in history," he said on Saturday in his weekly radio address. The figures also showed that nearly three quarters of a million people have stopped receiving welfare — income-related benefits paid by federal or state government — in the past seven months.

The figures come as the White House prepares to bat-

tle with the Republican-backed Congress over the welfare reform Bill which Mr Clinton signed in September, having vetoed it twice. Critics of the new laws, which remove benefits from people who do not seek work, say they are too harsh on the poorest members of society.

However, Republicans and Democrats, both committed to trying to balance the government budget, are seeking ways to cut spending on federal entitlements. Alan Greenspan, chairman of the Federal Reserve, gave a warning on Friday that prompt action was needed to rescue

the social security system from bankruptcy.

Mr Greenspan, who headed a 1985 commission which temporarily rescued social security from imminent collapse, said that the approaching retirement of the "baby boomers" would worsen the problem. Whatever was done should be done soon to minimise the cost, he argued in a speech in Philadelphia.

It also emerged yesterday that a federal advisory panel studying the looming problems in funding social security is sharply split in its conclusions after two years of study. Seven of the 13 members recommend replacing part of social security with compulsory private savings. Other members argue that investing social security funds in the stock market, rather than government bonds, would earn enough extra money, albeit at higher risk, to make up the predicted shortfall.

Although Mr Clinton vigorously criticised the Bill in its passage, he attributes the fall in welfare recipients to the policy at the heart of the new law: allowing states to step outside the federal framework of benefits to experiment with their own schemes.

That policy, put in place in advance of the Bill in a handful of states, has led to sharp falls in the numbers claiming welfare. Mr Clinton, who pledged when elected in 1992 to "end welfare as we know it", welcomed the 41 per cent drop in Wisconsin welfare rolls and 38 per cent in Indiana rolls.

However, the greater test of the new legislation will be whether people who have been forced off the welfare rolls can find jobs. Mr Clinton said: "This is just the beginning of reform. Now we have to create a million jobs by giving businesses incentives to hire people off welfare."

Baby boomers' bill, page 46

'Corporate wife' in \$49m divorce case

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

THE "corporate wife" of a General Electric executive is seeking half of his estimated \$98 million (£60 million) fortune in a divorce case, arguing that she put as much work into his career as he did.

Lorna Wendt, 53, says that during the couple's 31-year marriage she performed such company services as hosting dinner parties and organising trips abroad, offering advice on job applicants and socialising with VIPs, giving tips on shopping to the wives of employees, and even babysitting their children.

Describing herself as "the ultimate hostess", Mrs Wendt told a court in Connecticut: "I took my job very seriously."

Gary Wendt, 54, is the head of GE's Capital Services unit and has been mentioned as a possible successor to Jack Welch as head of the whole GE empire. Claiming that he is only worth \$52 million, he has offered his wife \$8 million, plus \$250,000 a year.

"I know what Lorna's needs are, and I want her to be able to live very, very comfortably after we're divorced, and I think that's the kind of number that should allow her to do that," he said in a deposition obtained by *The Wall Street Journal*.

Experts say Mrs Wendt has an unusually strong case which could mark a breakthrough for the wives of the super-rich, who are usually awarded far less than half the estate under an unofficial doctrine that "enough is enough".

When Mr Wendt graduated from Harvard Business School, the dean gave Mrs Wendt and other business school wives a PH.D. degree, for "Put Hubby Through" — a certificate she has now introduced as evidence in the divorce case.

Mrs Wendt says the question is not how much money she needs from her husband, but how much she deserves as a partner in his career.



Fidel Castro and his brother, Raúl, centre, standing side-by-side to greet the public during an act of commemoration marking the hundredth anniversary of the death, during Cuba's war of independence from Spain, of General Antonio Maceo (David Adams writes in Miami).

On the platform with the brothers is Comandante Juan Almeida, left, a member of the ruling Council of State.

Raúl Castro, Cuba's Vice-President and Defence Minister, took the opportunity to pledge to carry communism into

Castro promise of Communist future

the 21st century. He told those at the ceremony: "In the 21st century the destiny of the country will be in the hands of men and women who are as firm as us, as patriotic, as anti-imperialist, as Communist and as united as us."

Although the speeches focused on the Castro's traditional enemy — Washing-

ton — the anniversary of the general's death in Cachoal, near Havana, was also a reminder of Cuba's resistance to European meddling in its affairs.

Last week the European Union approved a policy on Cuba, demanding greater respect for human rights and democratic reforms as a condition for European economic co-operation.

Last month Cuba withdrew its approval for Spain's new Ambassador, José Coderch, in protest against what it called Spanish interference in its affairs.

Japanese Princess laments media 'distortion'

FROM AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE IN TOKYO

JAPAN'S Crown Princess Masako has hit back at the foreign and domestic media for what she called a distorted portrayal of her life behind the walls of the palace, but admitted she had found it hard to conform.

For Princess Masako, it has been a year of great media attention focusing on public disappointment with her somewhat reclusive lifestyle and on whether she will produce an heir to the Chrysanthemum Throne.

When she first got married many thought she would become a new role model for Japanese women, breaking the traditional conservative mould. But she rapidly fell in with palace protocol.

In the interview she admitted she had found it hard to conform. "I struggle at times in harmonising or striking a balance between the traditional way of a Crown Princess and the way I feel," she said.

The Princess, who served at the Foreign Ministry after being educated at three top universities — Harvard, Tokyo and Oxford — gave only one example of the type of media coverage she disliked. "There was a story which said that I am seen only when I ride a train or a car and that I rarely appear in public," Princess Masako said, in an apparent reference to a US newspaper report. "Is it really so? Isn't it a little too exaggerated?"

The Princess also turned on Japanese weekly magazines, which feature celebrity gossip, and particularly royal affairs. "I often see them pursue arguments ... centring on unfounded speculation about the Imperial Family, the Imperial Household Agency and myself and carry sensational headlines," she said.

With unusual candour Prince Akishino, the second son of Emperor Akihito, denied ten days ago reports that his frequent trips to Thailand were related to extra-marital affairs there.

Princess Masako has fallen in with palace protocol



Masako: has fallen in with palace protocol

The Direct Mortgage

At Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct we have a mortgage so flexible you don't even have to tell us your income.
CALL 0800 810 810 — FREE



0800 810 810 puts you straight through to Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct where you can have provisional acceptance of a mortgage in 5 minutes, and a highly competitive mortgage at that. Lines are open 8am to 10pm, 7 days a week.

The Personal Choice Mortgage changes to suit your personal needs

The Personal Choice Mortgage is an innovative flexible mortgage from Bank of Scotland which changes as your needs and circumstances change. You can pay more when times are good — shortening the repayment period — and pay less if you hit a bad patch; even suspend payments altogether within a pre-set limit. Budget for Christmas and holidays by paying over 10 months instead of 12.

With the Personal Choice mortgage you can request a cheque book, allowing you to take further advances and raise up to £50,000 on the equity of your property. Current rates for this flexible mortgage are 6.99% Variable (7.3% Typical APR). A further, newly introduced option removes the need for applicants to supply income details on loans of up to 75%. This would be of particular interest to company directors and the self-employed.

Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct Product Summary

6.99% Variable (7.3% Typical APR)	85% Mortgage	100% Mortgage
• No Arrangement Fee	• No Arrangement Fee	• No Arrangement Fee
• No redemption penalty	• No Mortgage Indemnity	• No redemption penalty
• Pay more	• Valuation Fee refunded when funds sent to Solicitors	• Higher Loan to Value Access Fee added to loan
• Pay less or stop paying within a pre-set limit	• No redemption penalty	• Solicitors and Valuation Fee can be added
• Capital raise up to £50,000	• Capital raise up to £50,000	
• Pay over 10 rather than 12 months	• Cheque book facility available to draw funds when required	
• Additional Funds facility of up to 5% of property value with cheque book	Free re-mortgage package available.	
No income details required on loans up to 75% of property value		

The 85% Mortgage offers opportunity to access your capital

With a preferential interest rate of 6.49% Variable (6.8% Typical APR) a Bank of Scotland 85% mortgage gives you the option of raising up to £50,000 capital when you transfer your existing mortgage to Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct. There are no hidden extras and there is no redemption fee

if you decide to pay off the mortgage early. There is also a cheque book facility available through which you can access additional funds when you require them.

The 100% Mortgage

The Bank of Scotland 100% mortgage is ideal for first time buyers with little or no capital. There is a Higher Loan to Value Access Fee to be paid, but this and the cost of legal and valua-

tion fees can be added to the loan. This frees up borrowers' own cash to buy essentials for their new property. The 100% mortgage offers a highly competitive variable rate of 7.49% (7.9% Typical APR).

BANK OF SCOTLAND
MORTGAGES DIRECT
CALL FREE ON
0800 810 810

Typical example: Personal Choice Repayment Mortgage. Monthly repayments of Capital and Interest for mortgage of £40,000 over 25 years. Assuming the rate at 6.99% (7.3% Typical APR) 300 net payments of £265.44 (MIRAS calculated under current tax legislation and may alter) total net amount payable £79,632. (This estimate includes valuation fee of £100, Solicitor's fees of £222 and £500 Higher Loan to Value Access Fee.) Valuation fee refunded on drawdown of mortgage. All lending is subject to appraisal by the Bank of the applicant's financial status and valuation of the property. Full details and a written consumer credit quotation are available from Bank of Scotland Mortgages Direct, PO Box 12304, Edinburgh EH12 9DX. The Bank requires security over the property, and home building insurance for reinstatement value. To apply for a loan or mortgage you must be aged 18 or over. Bank of Scotland is a Representative only of STANDARD LIFE, which is regulated by the Personal Investment Authority, for life assurance, pensions and unit trust business. Rates correct at time of printing but subject to variation. Telephone calls may be recorded for security purposes and may be monitored under the Bank's quality control procedures. Bank of Scotland and 85% are the registered trademarks of The Governor and Company of the Bank of Scotland.

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT.

Starving Kabul sells bones of the dead to survive

In an alley beside Kabul's blue mosque, ragged, lean figures shovel bones into sacks before loading them onto the back of a decrepit, gaudily painted lorry.

There were animal bones and human bones. People here are so desperate they are selling their dead on the streets of Kabul.

Taliks, Uzbeks, Pashtuns, Hazaras, the descendants of Alexander's army and Uthman's Mongol hordes, jostle one another in the bazaars and street stalls selling everything from the most ornate Persian carpets down to the most useless junk and mere crusts of bread.

It was several days before I noticed the piles of bones in the market stalls. These seemed to be more each day, and late one afternoon I stopped to ask a stallholder what they were for. "Oh, they are brought by merchants here and sold on in bulk to Pakistan," he replied. There they are used to make soap, cooking oil and chicken feed.

I asked how much the bones were worth. Then, in a moment of intuition, I asked how much for human bones. "The same price," he said, nonplussed, "they are often easier to get."

There was no humour in his eyes and he turned away, bored with the conversation. But his words left an echo in my mind, the superficial exorcism of the bazaars and revealed the poverty of the world beneath.

The average skeleton of a dead adult male Afghan weighs about 13lb, which makes it worth up to 7,000 afghanis in the bazaars, or just over half a US dollar. It is good money in Kabul.

Inflation has been running at more than 400 per cent since January, with no increase in wages, and the capital's almost non-existent economy was damaged further by Taleban's decree banning women from working.

Fees, which initially dropped after Taleban's takeover of the city, have risen to their original levels as the rest of Pakistani and Taleban taxes on goods entering the country. A 14lb bag of flour costs about 32,000 afghanis and most Kabul families have at least six mouths to feed. The residents of Kabul face their worst winter ever, hence the trade in human bones.

"Used to dig for scrap iron, but the Taleban forbade it being exported to Pakistan when they captured Kabul," says Faizdeen, in the Ashaqa Arefan graveyard in the west of the city. "So now dig for bones."

It is 14 years old, dressed in torn, dirt clothes, and malnutrition has creased the skin on the sides of his face and prematurely withered his hands. He has a tiny cotton bag in his hands, with he opens proudly for examination. A tibia sticks out of the opening. Beneath it lies a jumble of smaller bones, all human, all taken from the graveyard. He is typical of the city's

Anthony Loyd in Kabul reports from a ruined and impoverished city where children have become family breadwinners by robbing graves, not for jewellery but for bones that are exported to Pakistan

street urchins. More than 28,000 were employed in some form of labour at the last count and the number is rising. By robbing graves, Faizdeen earns twice as much as a civil servant.

One of a family of eight, his parents are without work. Two months ago a group of his friends took him grave-robbing. They sold the bones to one of the boneyards that have sprung up behind the blue mosque. Faizdeen returned home and asked his father, in the tradition of deference in Afghan families, for permission to start selling bones full time. His father thought for a while, then acquiesced.

"It's good business," Faizdeen says. "There is no other work, the scrap iron trade has finished and we need the money for food. Though I often pick animal bones, human ones are easier to find here. The money is the same and with it I can support my family."

Six days a week he goes out to the graveyards with his cotton sack and stick and starts scratching the bones from the earth. It is not difficult, though he prefers to pick a time when the graveyards are deserted as, though the business of digging is

now monopolised by children, sometimes elderly men chase the diggers away. On a good day he collects up to 28lb of bones.

The Ashaqa Arefan cemetery, spilling down from rocky, bare earth slopes and named after one of two Afghan brothers who were "martyred" fighting the British in 1919, was a front line between forces loyal to the Government and those of General Dostum for almost a year. Shellfire broke open many of the caskets, exhumed bodies from the simpler graves, and scattered bones across the hillside.

Soil erosion and the work of the grave robbers has uncovered many more. For these reasons it is a good place to dig, though other favoured cemeteries include the city's largest, the Shohada Soleheen ("place of pure martyrs") beneath the Bala Hissar fortress in the south of Kabul, and the ancient Dashtbarchi ("Desert of Barchi") site in the west of the capital.

Attitudes to the trade vary. Though they are a proud people and the business is obviously haram, forbidden by their faith, the 17-year war, of which there is still no end in sight, has undermined many of the society's

moral constraints. "I don't stop my children from working the graves," remarked Qadagha, the father of two bone-trading sons. "It is not good but what can we do? It's work and money and our only thoughts are for food."

For the sake of subtlety the grave robbers smash the skulls they find with rocks, sometimes burning the jawbones to disguise their telling shape.

Though Taleban's strict imposition of Sharia (religious) law has enforced a degree of discipline, ironically it is their presence that has allowed the human bone trade to begin.

The last Government banned the bone trade, says Nowsher, the owner of a large boneyard in Morad Kham by the blue mosque. "The biggest trade in their times was iron. Then the Taleban came and since [Bensazir] Bhutto fell in Pakistan they banned the export of iron there, and few traders here risk buying it off the children any more. So the bone trade has taken off."

"Dogs, cows, people, the lot. When the Taleban asked about it, we said we dealt in animal bones to be used for chicken feed. If they knew different they would close it down. But they fell for it, and left us alone."

"The money is excellent. You can buy a kilo here for up to two 'kaldars' (one kaldar is about 510 afghan rupees, a term like 'a guinea'), and sell it in Pakistan for 15 kaldars."

Piles of broken bones from dogs, cows, horses, donkeys and humans lie around him, grey in the sunlight like shingle on the beach, one particular pile topped coquettishly by a human pelvis. Nowsher opened his yard a month ago, buying bones from the collectors (usually teenage "fences" that buy off the grave robbers) and exporting them to Lahore on the back of lorries.

Nothing can mask Afghanistan's grim reality, neither the beauty of the carpets, the magnificence of the mountains, nor the sweep of the Afghan skies. The war whirled around this city for years, then swept into it, then left it behind, a ruin. Pakistan, the current exporter of so much misery to Afghanistan, via its supply of military hardware to Taleban, has ironically become the importer of dead Afghans for use as chicken feed and cooking oil.

"You see what we have come to," whispered an Afghan teacher beside me as I watched some children selling bones to a trader, who weighed them on a set of large scales. "No work, no food, no hope. A generation with no education that has known only war. This is what it has come to: human remains sold as animal bones. Look at our miserable lives; even the rich of this place stop in the street and beg for money."



The human and animal bones these children collect are sold to Pakistan where they are processed into soap, cooking oil and chicken feed



Children at one of Kabul's military cemeteries scavenge for bones among the victims of Afghanistan's 17-year war

Make someone's Christmas Complete.

one 2 one

£199.99

Call in one 2 one

Includes world-renowned Motorola digital phone, Motorola free, unlimited 24-hour a day British service, Motorola free, unlimited 24-hour a day British service, Motorola free, unlimited 24-hour a day British service, Motorola free, unlimited 24-hour a day British service.

nothing else to buy

MOTOROLA

one 2 one

0500 500 121

the people to have a one 2 one with

Give your number one the All-in-One pack this Christmas and all they'll pay for is their calls. Because the pack includes a Motorola graphite digital phone, free connection to the One 2 One bronze service and inclusive line rental for a year. They even get free local weekend calls and a free voicemail answering service all for just £199.99. Call us for details of your nearest One 2 One stockist.

See us at the nearest One 2 One stockist. (Note: prices are subject to change without notice. Offer available while stocks last.)

Internet user on sex charge

distortion

age

SALE OF SCOTLAND MORTGAGES DIRECT 0800 810 810

SECRET

BY WILLIAM SHAWCROSS

Mr Annan, 58, has worked for more than three decades in the UN system, held senior

Annan: has a proven record as manager

ments "probably need their armies to intimidate their own populations".



FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

According to the paper, the owner, Josef Marula, is blocking attempts by the town

family in 1938 after the Nazi takeover of Austria and later died of cancer.

BY JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG KONG AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

The agent, who allegedly

National Unification Board official said. (AFP)

lived in the north of the country for centuries.

Julian Aukland Abbey, Jill Abbott, Jack Abuslie, Brian W Atkins, Philip Aikali,
Professors Alan Allcock, Don John Anderson, Angelo and Consuelo Ltd, Bruce Annett

DeWard, J. S. Jones, Peter Hopman, Marjaret Hargrett, John & Sarah Reynolds,
 Bernard & Sylvia Hargrett, David Hopman, Mrs Margarette Hargrett, John & Marie
 Marguerite Hargrett, John & Helen Hargrett, H. B. Hoshorn, Alan G. Hughes,
 Fred Hughes, David Hunter, Peter Hughes, John W. Hughes, George G. Johnson,
 M. C. Jones, D. J. Ingalls, H. T. Ireland, Christopher Jackson, David Jackson, R. E.
 Javala, Mrs S. Jacobs, Peter J. James, John W. Jameson, David Jeffcock, K. D.
 Jones, Peter B. Johnson, John Johnson, Sally Jo Johnson, John Johnstone, Mrs.
 Gillian Jones, Carl Jung Jones, Mr Melville T. W. Jones, Mrs Frances Jones TSG, Mrs.
 Peter Jones, Carl Hingman Jones, Carson Jungwirth, Professor Michael Kaser, E. G.
 M. Kempf, R. Kempshall, Mrs E. A. Keenett, N. S. Kervigan, Mr J. Kilg, L. P. Kilford,
 G. Kilroy, Dr Alexander King (M.D.), C. K. Kline, C. K. Kline, Roger Knapp, Stephen Knapp,
 Dr H. R. H. Lamm, Mrs John Lund, J. D. Lander, C. J. Landon, W. K. R. Laywell,
 Christopher Layton, D. M. Leath-Lander, E. Leavelle Le Crean, Peter & Michael Lee,
 John Lewis, Roda Lewis, Karl A. Lewis, Mr Michael Lezeroff, H. E. Lewis, David Levent,
 R. Harold G. Lewis, Mr & Mrs J. R. Leg, Signe Leyland, H. C. Liffey, P. H. Lintsbach,
 Bly Laneline, Mrs & Peter Ljovd-Jones, D. A. Logan, Dr F. John Long (M.D.), C. P. Lounsbury, C. R.
 Lyndon, Mairi MacIntyre, Mrs N. L. MacKenzie, Kenneth D. Meadows, Boy Manley,
 Frances Maister, Mr Denis Edward Margrett, Nigel Martin & Sandra Martin, B. A. V.
 Maister, Pauline Marriott, M. Q. Marshall, Raymond Ball, M. C. Martin, J.
 Mason, Ron Mathfield, Alastair S. Matheson, Peter J. Maupaul, K. May, Martin Mayne,
 Dr Max May, Mr & Mrs Mary A. P. McCarthy, Dr Patrick McCausland, Douglas R.
 McCausland, D. A. McCausland, Christopher McErick, Mark M. Kergow, Alan McLaren,
 James A. McLaren, Larry McClean, Dennis G. Menchors, The Revd A. D. Metters, F. V.
 Meyer, T. S. Milniewicz, H. W. Milnwood, G. C. Millar, D. C. Miller, Mrs S. Miller, W. J.
 Milnehan, C. J. Milson, S. M. Minulnicul, Mr D. R. Minton, Tim Mitchell.

Mr Lawrence Airey KCB, Donald Anderson MP, Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown MP, Mr Simon Barrow, Hu
man Rath MP, Air Vice Marshall D N K Blair, Officer-in-Chief, Professor Vernon Bogdanor, Dale Cam

[illegible]

Mr Lawrence Airey KCB, Donald Anderson MP, Rt Hon Paddy Ashdown MP, Mr Simon Barrow, Hugh Bayley MP, Rt Hon Ian Beth MP, Air Vice Marshall D N K Blair-Oliphant, Professor Vernon Bogdanor, Dale Campbell Savours MP, Sir Bryan Cartledge KCMG, Sir Geoffrey Chandler, Lord Clinton-Davis, Lord Cobbold, James Couchman MP, Mr J Cox CBE, Peter Crompton MEP, Mrs Edwina Currie MP, Quentin Davies MP, Sir Roy Denman, Hugh Dykes MP, Rt Hon Tim Eggart MP, Dr Winifred Ewing MEP, Sir Russell Fairgreive, Andrew Faulds MP, Don Foster MP, Sam Galbraith MP, Mike Gapes MP, Rt Hon Lord Gilmour of Craigmillar, Sir Anthony Grant MP, Lady Greengross, Cllr Mike Hancock CBE, Professor Stephen Haseler, Sir Alan Haselhurst MP, Rt Hon Roy Hattersley MP, Jerry Hayes MP, Sir Nicholas Henderson, Mark Hendrick MEP, Sir Robert Hicks MP, Keith Hill MP, Lord Hoosen QC, Lord Howe of Aberavon CH QC, Sir Ralph Howell MP, Lord Howell, Lord Howie of Troon, Sir John Hunt MP, Rt Hon Lord Jenkins of Hillhead, Christopher Johnson, Sir Russell Johnston MP, Ieuan Wyn Jones MP, Mr Bill Jordan, Charles Kennedy MP, Glenys Kinnock MEP, Sir David Knox MP, Lord Lester of Herne Hill, Sir Jim Lester DL, Mr Rt Hon Dr J Dickson Mabon, Calum MacDonald MP, John MacDonald QC, Denis MacShane MP, Sir Donald Maitland, Professor David Marquand, David Martin MEP, Lord McNally, Sir Jeremy Morse, The Rt Hon Sir Michael Palliser GCMG, Mr John Pinder OBE, Lord Plumb MEP, The Lord Poole, Giles Radice MP, Mr John Raisman CBE, Stuart Randall MP, Lord Richard, Earl Russell, Brian Sedgemore MP, Patrick Sheehy, Barry Sheerman MP, Peter Temple-Morris MP, Patrick Thompson MP, The Lord Thomson of Monifieth, John Home Robertson MP, Sir Clive Rose, The Rt. Hon. Jeremy Thorpe, Gary Titley MEP, John Tomlinson MEP, Carol Tongue MEP, Cyril D Townsend MP, Lord Tugendhat, Paul Tyler MP, Lord Wallace, Mr Graham Watson MEP, Michael Welsh, Ian White MEP, Rt Hon Baroness Williams of Crosby, Stephen Woodard

London, SW1P 3YZ,
or phone: 0171 233 1422



We believe that this or any future British government should negotiate in the current IGC with a view to mobilising the widest cross-party coalition of support in the House of Commons for any deal, rather than hoping to rely on a majority from any one party, as during ratification of the Maastricht Treaty. *A new treaty package negotiated along the lines set out in this declaration could, and would command a large majority in the House of Commons, and should be a priority for this and any future British government.*

□ Measuring risk □ Bear prints □ Sniff 'n' tears

Your number's up

Scientists are good at putting a number on anything, but so far they have failed to find a simple measure for the risks of normal life. Is living in Cornwall, where radon levels are high, more dangerous than eating British beef? How do both of these compare with the risks of smoking cigarettes or driving a car? We need a number to express these risks.

The challenge is thrown down in this month's issue of the Royal Statistical Society's magazine, *RSS News*, following a call made by the society's president, Adrian Smith, in his presidential address. The journal says that it simply isn't good enough merely to be told that something is "safe" or otherwise. "People need a simple measure of risk which they can use as a basis for decision-making," the journal's editorial says.

Coming up with a Richter scale for risk isn't easy. It must provide a comparison between the risks of purely voluntary activities (smoking, rock climbing) and those that are voluntary but unavoidable (travel, eating different foods, coalmining) while also incorporating risks imposed by society (living near a nuclear power station, or passive smoking) and acts of God such as floods or lightning strikes.

RSS News cites approvingly the work of the mathematician John Allen Paulos of Temple University in Pennsylvania. In his book *Innumeracy* Professor Paulos suggests a simple safety index based on logarithms. If



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

one in every 8,000 people in the UK dies every year in traffic accidents, then the safety index would be the log of 8,000 — that is 3.9.

On this basis, smoking ten cigarettes a day would score 2.3, being struck by lightning 6.3, playing Russian roulette once a year 0.8, and dying from a bee-sting 6.8. *RSS News* suggests that anything under three might be deemed dangerous, and anything over six safe.

This is a good starting point, but not the complete answer. It would need to be adjusted for the number of people involved, and for their age — a long-term risk that is unacceptable for a 25-year-old might well be seen differently by those over the age of 70 — and it should make allowance for disease and disability as well as death.

One drawback is that dangerous activities score low, and safe ones high, the opposite of the Richter scale. It is a safety rather than a risk index. Professor Paulos's answer to that was simply to subtract his safety index from 10 to produce a rising scale of risk, the more dangerous activities scoring higher. But the *RSS News* doesn't find that very appealing, pointing out that very low risk activities might come out as negative numbers.

Anybody with a better idea should send it to the editor of *RSS News*, Frank Duckworth, at 12 Errol St, London EC1Y 8LX (e-mail: rssnews@rss.org.uk). Immortality could await the successful inventor: think of Beaufort and Richter.

Putting the finger on the koala



POLICE in Australia have been warned: the fingerprints at the scene of a crime could be those of a koala bear. While handling koalas in the Urimbirra Wildlife Park near Adelaide, Dr Maciej Henneberg of the University of Adelaide noticed that their fingers carry the same kinds of loops, whorls and arches as human fingers. Detailed comparisons with chimpanzee and human prints showed that although chimpanzees are man's closest relation, their fingerprints are less like ours than a koala's are. Nobody else seems to have noticed this, Dr Henneberg found when he consulted the literature.

The main interest is evolutionary rather than forensic. "Marsupials such as the koala split from the lineage of the primates about 80 million years ago," Dr Henneberg told *New Scientist*. "So we have two lineages independently developing the same trait."

He believes that fingerprints originally evolved as a device to aid grip when climbing trees. "Although it's extremely unlikely that koala prints would be found at the scene of a crime, police should at least be aware of the possibility," he says.

When passion turns cold



PEOPLE with unhappy marriages or who are at loggerheads with their boss are more likely to catch colds, a study in Pittsburgh has shown. Sheldon Cohen of Carnegie Mellon University exposed 276 adults to a cold virus, then kept them isolated for five days to see which of them succumbed.

His team reported to a conference in Bethesda, Maryland, last month that the most vulnerable were those with long-term conflicts, either at home or in the office. A single row with a spouse or a bad day at work were not significant but "enduring social conflicts" did increase the risk. The results confirm earlier work done in Britain showing that the more stressed individuals are, the more likely they are to catch colds.

Worse still is social isolation. In the Pittsburgh study, people with few contacts either at home, at work, or in sporting or social clubs were four times more likely to become ill than those with six or more types of social contact. This result is in line with past research showing that people with lots of friends and contacts live longer than those who are lonely.



The starting hypothesis for the Pitman and Ryan flood theory came from the Bible story of Noah, which many scientists would think outrageous

Proving Noah's Flood

"... I will cause it to rain upon the earth forty days and forty nights; and every living substance that I have made will I destroy from off the face of the earth."

Genesis vii; 11

I started off as a joke. Dr William Ryan and Dr Walter Pitman, two American geologists, were working alongside Dr John Dewey, a British contemporary, in 1971. The three had been discussing the sudden flooding of the Mediterranean five million years ago. Dr Dewey, now Professor of

Anjana Ahuja reports on the two American geologists who believe they have convincing evidence that the biblical flood did take place

Earth Science at Oxford University, said: "I wonder if it was anything like Noah's Flood?" Twenty-five years later, Dr Pitman and Dr Ryan, now distinguished authorities on marine geology at the Lamont-Doherty Earth Observatory, New York, think they have found evidence that the biblical flood did take place.

Furthermore, they have speculated that the flood uprooted thousands, triggering a human exodus from the Middle East into Europe many thousands of years ago. Their claims have been met with disbelief, but the geological evidence they have pieced together, which is presented in a *Horizon* documentary next week, is compelling.

Their reasoning starts with the fact that the dramatic biblical story of the Flood, which God visited upon the Earth as punishment for the sins of mankind, has echoes elsewhere. The Epic of Gilgamesh, a Babylonian poem written in the third millennium BC, also features a great flood: "Like a battleaxe, the destructive flood weapon passed over the people. No man could see his fellow, nor could people be distinguished from the sky. Even the gods were afraid of the flood weapon."

The fact that two different accounts appeared in legend led us to wonder if there really was a flood," Dr Ryan says. "If, as the descriptions suggested, it caused whole communities to move, then it was likely that the story of the Flood would be passed down to future generations."

In their spare time, the two scientists began to ponder this fresh challenge. A torrent of biblical proportions required precise geological conditions — a narrow channel through which water could gush once some critical stage was reached. They speculated that the end of an Ice Age would lead sea levels to rise dramatically, and concluded that the most likely site for a catastrophic flow would be a bottle-shaped basin connected to the ocean via a narrow neck.

They found the perfect candidate — the Black Sea. Connected to the Mediterranean by an almost perfect bottleneck, the Bosphorus, there was no question that the Black Sea had been isolated from the Mediterranean during the last Ice Age.

There was one problem. The Black Sea was of strategic importance to the Russians, and was patrolled by the Russian Navy. Instead of collecting their own data, Dr Ryan and Dr Pitman had to



Dr Pitman and Dr Ryan

already been published. They struck lucky — oceanographers had mapped the deepest sections of the Black Sea basin. This survey showed that the Black Sea had been a freshwater lake. "Samples of sediments showed that the water had gone from freshwater to saline about 9,000 years ago, and that this change was very sudden," Dr Pitman says.

Then, out of the blue, a letter from Dr Felko Dimitrov arrived on Dr Ryan's desk. This Bulgarian oceanographer, who had heard about Dr Ryan and Dr Pitman, claimed to have carried out studies in the Seventies showing that the basin of the Black Sea harboured ancient beaches and an old shoreline. These features could, in theory, have been suddenly washed over by a flood: Dr Ryan could not believe his eyes: "I rushed the letter out to Walter and we read it again and again. We were thrilled."

From examining shells he had found on a deep sea expedition, Dr Dimitrov estimated that the water level had risen by 60 metres. The puzzle was beginning to look solvable.

Dr Pitman contacted friends in Turkey, who furnished him with data showing a groove or channel, between 80 and 100 metres deep, leading from the Bosphorus into the Black Sea. This would be consistent with a fast rush of water.

It was not until 1993, however, that Dr Ryan and Dr Pitman could fulfil their ambition of checking out the Black Sea for themselves. They were invited to join a Russian scientific expedition aboard the *Aquanaut*, which was to monitor radioactivity levels in the sea after the Chernobyl incident.

Never in their wildest dreams did the two scientists think they would stumble upon such perfect evidence for their argument. A seismic profile of the seabed revealed a perfectly uniform layer of sedi-

only have been achieved if the sediment was laid down in one sweep, rather than in gradations.

Sediment cores, or samples, showed a sudden change between dry, weathered mud and soft, misty mud. The muddy mud contained molluscs from the Mediterranean; these interlopers must have been swept from their home into the Black Sea in a huge torrent of water.

More startling was the evidence lying in the dry, pre-flood mud — it contained roots of shrubs and vegetation. It seemed as if the Black Sea basin was once a plain, and may even have been inhabited. The Russian crew held a celebratory barbecue in the middle of the Black Sea for their sturgeon guests.

Precise carbon-14 dating brought the flood date forward to 7,550 years ago. The two

marine geologists plan to publish their results soon. But is it the real Flood?

Dr Ryan says: "We have convincing evidence that a flood took place in the Black Sea. The evidence that it is the same one in the Bible and in the Epic of Gilgamesh is circumstantial, and that has led to a friendly dispute between us and archaeologists."

However, the date we have come up with was a benchmark for the rapid radiation of people and farming into Europe."

Dr Pitman, though, is unsurprised by the lukewarm reaction from archaeologists: "They probably get lunatics coming in with crazy ideas all the time. And our starting hypothesis came from the Bible and an ancient legend, which would be considered outrageous by many scientists. But the experts we have spoken to are beginning to realise that this may have been an important event in history."

● *Horizon: Noah's Flood*, Monday December 16, BBC2, 8pm.

THE TIMES

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL FEATURE

Notttingham Forest look to improve on their dismal form against a Bayern Newcastle United

ITF COMPETITION

Picture courtesy of NBPA

BACK PAIN DOESN'T KILL IT TORTURES.

Tension free sleep is vital to your health.

Over 20,000 Medical Professionals recommend the Tempur® Mattress and Pillow for the prevention and treatment of back and joint pain while you sleep.

On an ordinary mattress you toes and turn up to 80 times a night, with the Tempur® Mattress this is reduced by 78%.

The Tempur® Material moulds to the contours of your body giving relief from shoulder pain, stiff neck, aching joints, tension headaches, sciatica and back pain.

- Easy payment terms • 10 year guarantee
- 60 days trial. Your money back if not completely satisfied
- Thousands of pain free testimonials in UK

The Tempur® Mattress and Pillow mould to the body, resulting in optimum distribution of pressure.

SLEEP ON IT FOR 60 NIGHTS WITH COMPLETE MONEY BACK GUARANTEE

Please send me details on the Tempur® Mattress & Pillow and the National Back Pain Association (NBPA)

Name _____ Address _____

Daytime Phone No. _____

Postcode _____

Send coupon to: Tempur - Profile (UK) Ltd FREEPOST (H1A 4653) Gosport, Hants, UK B63 9BB, or call 0800 616 125

UNSECURED PERSONAL CREDIT

With interest

12.3%

you can borrow

0800 123 456

'I like to think we were a class act'

With his serious swinging days behind him *Playboy* founder Hugh Hefner now wants his life to be seen as a metaphor of our times.

Interview by Giles Whittell



Hefner and playmate Barbara Benton on his DC9 jet

Hugh Hefner, playboy of the Western world, greets his visitors nowadays not with bunny girls but with a talking rock. "Welcome to the mansion," a lump of faux-granite intones from the shrubs beside a huge pair of gates not far off Sunset Boulevard. "Please drive up to the forecourt and leave your keys in the car. You will be met."

The gates swing open and you do as you are told. At the top of a steep drive a Hefner factotum emerges as promised from a side door in a mock-Tudor pile that has been the Playboy Mansion since 1971.

From outside the place could pass for a Sussex prep school. Inside, a four-foot painting of a nearly-nude Kimberly Hefner (Hef's second wife) dominates the Great Hall. Through an opulent screening room, there is a cosier library; a place of leather armchairs, backgammon boards set in the coffee table and bound volumes of every *Playboy* ever published.

Here the catalyst of the century's most famous orgies has granted an interview as part of a daring bid to reinvent himself as one who "helped to define the better part of the last half-century".

Hef — no one calls him Mr Hefner — arrives as usual in a crimson smoking jacket and black silk pyjamas. When he did his most serious swinging — passing the thousand-lover mark, he says — he was lean, dark and in his fifties. Now he is 70. The hair is grey, the voice a bit gurgly after a stroke 11 years ago, the rampaging sex consigned to social history.

He perches on a sofa under a portrait of himself as "Hef the First", a Plantagenet lookalike, and another of his young wives, her breasts this time floating perkily towards

the library's oaken ceiling just as they did in her 1989 Playmate of the Year pictorial. Briskly, he swats aside the idea that he was ever a pornographer.

"The Playmates have always been rooted in a tradition of American 'good girl' art," he says without a trace of irony. "The pin-up photography of World War Two — the glamour girls, the movie stars, the Betty Grables that's the origin of the Playmate centrefolds." To jump him with rivals like Bob Guccione, publisher of the crassly explicit *Penthouse*, is apparently to miss the whole point of *Playboy*. (Hef, whose magazine publishing peers have just bestowed on him the 1996 International Publishing Award, prefers comparisons with *GO* and *Esquire*.) "It was intended as a lifestyle handbook for the young urban male. All the popular men's magazines before it were macho outdoor magazines. I was looking for something a little more sophisticated and romantic."

And, naked. The first issue of *Playboy* in 1953 featured a famous set of photographs of Marilyn Monroe "with nothing on but the radio". It flew off the news stands. For the next 20 years *Playboy* ruled its niche, but by the early 1970s *Penthouse* and *Hustler* had muscled into the market and pundits gleefully declared the outbreak of the "public wars".

Hefner denies he ever fought them, and he doggedly parries the attacks of feminists. "There was a moment when I did tell my editors, 'enough is enough. I don't want you imitating the imitators.' But I like to think *Playboy* was always a class act." A faraway look passes



Hefner with his wife Kimberly: "We have a lot in common, she's an old-fashioned Methodist girl from Alabama and I'm a very moral guy. I've just redefined the nature of morality."

over him and he asks if I've seen "the book" — a bumper batch of Hef's favourite Playmates from four decades of soft lighting and cheesy sets, just published in America in tasteful white hardback.

"Can anyone seriously, in the real world, believe those images are exploitative?" he asks. "Do the women who have become famous thanks to that appearance in the magazine view it as exploitation? In most cases you'll find they look back on it as a quite remarkable period in their lives."

Hefner believes he and his magazine have taught the rest of us that "nice girls like sex too". This certainly is good to know. And with a passionate *vive la difference!* he dismisses his critics as anti-sex feminists pursuing a fringe political agenda. "The notion that somehow men and women are

the same and should behave the same and dress the same is nonsense. It's not politically correct to say so, but the sexes are complementary. They are in no manner, shape or form the same and thank God for that. It's what makes the world go round. That attraction between the sexes is the major civilising force on the planet."

All of which would seem to make the *Playboy* Mansion the cradle of civilisation. Please, Hef. Say it ain't so. What was the wildest night of your life? He sinks back into the sofa and guffaws. It must be hard, casting back over 30 years as a self-styled symbol of sexual revolution and liberated bachelorhood, to single out one moment of particular excess; harder still considering the first ten were spent in Chicago in a mansion even vaster than the present one, with parties every night and a "harem" of 24 young women for tenants. But he manages.

There was one birthday in the early Eighties when more than a dozen Playmates surprised me in the grove," he says. "That was a very nice evening. I love surprises." The grove sits behind the mansion under perhaps a hundred tons of designer crag-scape ringed by a swimming pool and refreshed by an artificial waterfall.

Elsewhere on his five-and-a-half acres Hefner maintains 30 squirrel monkeys, an aviary of parakeets and a games room with wall-to-wall pinball machines and a foam-floored, mirror-ceiling decorated sex above (now used chiefly by Kimberly to watch TV with friends).

But the grove is the highlight of any tour. If orgies are your thing, this must be a fun place for them. The pool flows into one cave and, over dimly-lit shallows, into another. Between them a hot tub bubbles in the style of a mineral spring. Lighting, water jets and something labelled "Your Pleasure" are controlled from a panel near the entrance.

With sex toys like this. Weren't there times when Hef lost his grasp of what was real? On the contrary, he says. "Fantasy and reality did blur, but largely in the minds of other people. You don't fly the world in a private jet painted black with a rabbit on the tail, and sleep in a rotating, vibrating round bed, and not know what you're doing — or see the humour in it."

Those were the days. In the late 1960s the *Playboy* empire stretched from a wildly profitable casino in London to the front line in Vietnam, where the magazine arrived by air-drop. With *Playboy* selling more than seven million copies a month, Hefner's net worth was put at over \$200 million. So he travelled in the world's biggest executive jet, a customised, stretched DC-9.

Circulation has since fallen to around three million. The casino has long since been closed down and the jet sold off to a Mexican airline. Hef still drives around LA in a bulletproof Mercedes limo with escort cars in front and behind, but when he flies he buys a ticket.

Guccione and Larry Flynn,

the publisher of *Hustler*, are the ones behind the scandals nowadays. Next to them, Hefner is a pillar of propriety. A "Children at Play" sign in the driveway reminds you he is the devoted father of two young sons, Marston, 6, and Cooper, 5. He likes to be mentioned for his lectures on censorship at the University of

Southern California, and wants his life to be seen as a grand metaphor for his times — from the rigid taboos of his Midwestern upbringing (which fired his fantasies) to the unbridled hedonism of the *Playboy* Mansion in the 1980s (which fired ours). Indeed, the noted feminist Camille Paglia has emerged as a staunch

Hefner fan, calling him: "one of the principal architects of the social revolution".

He is also, at last, monogamous. "Kimberly and I have a lot in common," he explains. "She's an old-fashioned Methodist girl from Alabama and I'm a very moral guy. I've just redefined the nature of morality."

IF THERE'S AN ACCIDENT AT WORK YOU MAY NOT BE AT FAULT.

IF YOU DON'T REPORT IT YOU WILL BE.



As an employer or manager it's your legal responsibility to report accidents at work, whatever your business.

Reporting is easy with RIDDOR '95 (Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations). Telephone now for your free RIDDOR '95 guide. It tells you when and how to report and includes an easy-to-complete reporting form.

By complying, you'll stay on the right side of the law - and help make the workplaces safer for everyone.

0845 125499

TELL US THEY'VE HAPPENED BEFORE THEY HAPPEN AGAIN



Reducing Risks - Protecting People

UNSECURED PERSONAL LOANS

With interest rates from

12.3% APR

you can afford to borrow more

12.3% APR
The Royal Bank of Scotland

12.9% APR
Midland Bank

13.5% APR
National Westminster Bank

13.9% APR
TSB Bank

14.9% APR
TSB Bank

14.9% APR
Barclays Bank

SEE HOW WE COMPARE				
A £4,000 Loan				
Lender	48 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Paid	Direct Loan Saving	
RB Direct	£124.16	£5,959.68	£1,044.48	
TSB	£137.98	£6,621.06		
Barclays	£134.70	£6,465.60		
NetWest	£134.10	£6,436.80		
A £7,000 Loan				
Lender	48 Monthly Payments	Total Amount Paid	Direct Loan Saving	
RB Direct	£215.35	£10,357.28	£1,744.48	
TSB	£235.73	£11,315.04		
Barclays	£232.77	£11,172.96		
NetWest	£230.89	£11,087.52		

PHONE FREE NOW FOR AN IMMEDIATE DECISION
0800 121 125

LINES OPEN 9AM-5PM WEEKDAYS, 9AM-4PM SAT, 10AM-4PM SUN
PLEASE QUOTE CODE D33WHEN CALLING

Or complete the information below and send to: The Royal Bank of Scotland plc, FREEPOST, 101 Princess Street, Manchester M1 6DP (no stamp required).

Surname (Mr/Ms/Ms/Ms)
First Name (in full)
Address
Postcode
Tel. Evening

The Royal Bank of Scotland plc. Registered Office: 30 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh EH2 2YL. Registered in Scotland No. 00312. All loans are subject to our assessment of your financial standing. Loan applications must be made by 15 or more. A written quotation based on your individual requirements is available on request. We may telephone you to discuss your enquiry. Telephone calls may be recorded for security or training purposes.

The essential guide to survival

From the simple joys of jelly and Smarties to the final geriatric fling, Joe Joseph on the seven ages of party man

With the Christmas and New Year party season upon us, those of us who relish a good time, the sort of evening where we can really let our hair down among close friends, suddenly find ourselves pulling out our social diaries and feverishly filling in all those blank spaces with appointments and rendezvous.

This way, when each new party invitation arrives, we can flamboyantly rifle through our diary and confirm that — very sadly — we cannot actually attend any gathering on that particular evening because it seems we are expecting the returner from Channel 5. "See? It's written right here. Tuesday? Sorry, that's Hoovering night." (Obviously, there are certain people who ache to be invited to almost anything, and it might be amusing to draw up a list of who they are. Perhaps amusing is too strong a word. Maybe depressing captures it better.)

So now we are free to telephone our close friends, invite them over to share an Indian takeaway and cold beer, and catch up on the latest intimate gossip about mutual acquaintances, which is something you feel you just can't do at a party full of strangers, because the music is too loud to hear properly.

Also, people at parties are preoccupied with other things: for instance, you often see them dashing around eyeing up all the guests, desperate to establish whether, by some Koestleresque fluke, they might actually be at the one thrush of the year not being attended by either Marie Helvin or Yasmin le Bon.

But not everyone feels this way. And even those who do, do not feel this way all the time. Moods change with age. As Shakespeare noticed in *As You Like It*: "All the world's a party. And all the men and women merely partygoers. They have their exits and their entrances; and one man in his time attends many parties, his attendances being divided into seven ages."

These, then, are the seven ages of party man.

"At first the infant, mewling and puking". Probably the last time in a partygoer's life when the "mewling and puking" will not have been brought on by too much liquor. Adults try to enjoy the best days of their lives. But children never believe them, because children have not yet understood that this is the last time in their lives that they will feel happy and then throw up — for no more than the cost of a tube of Smarties, a bowl of Hula-Hoops and three slabs of heavily-iced chocolate cake.

At this age, boys at parties fantasise about not getting scolded for coming home with chocolate-spread smeared all over their legs — not yet aware that what is called "a mess" when spattered on a five-year-old's legs is called "erotic chocolate body paint" when



Thirtysomethings at play: at the fourth age of partygoing, we are unlikely to find ourselves at the wilder bashes — but everyone can fantasise about being young, sexy and single.

rubbed by randy adults on each other.

"And then the whining schoolboy". Young men reach their sexual peak in their teens. This is also the age at which they are at their keenest to go to parties. There may be some connection. How can you tell they are keen? Because they spend seven hours preparing for the outing. Contrast this with the thirtysomething's concept of "making an effort", which consists of trying their best not to break wind in public, at least not next to the buffet table.

This is the age when the male partygoer fantasises that his mates will mistake his long absence from the dancefloor —

when he was in the upstairs lavatory, throwing up on older — as evidence that he had finally managed to persuade Daisy to go the whole hog, under the coat pile.

"Then the lover, sighing like furnace". Men and women in their late teens and early twenties are usually willing partygoers, because at this age Nature steps in. They are driven by their body's basic biological imperative to rush out as often as possible to other people's parties because this kind of social interaction dramatically increases their chances of holding something more exciting than biscuits dipped in taramasalata that's past its sell-by date. The target of male fantasies during this phase of their partying life is, for some bizarre arithmetical reason, the woman with whom they have the most improbable chance of success. It's one of God's weirder forms of contraception.



The final age... and it is party time once again

"Then a soldier, full of strange oaths". As they enter their thirties, men and women become foot soldiers in some giant corporate army, spending their days tapping away at computer keyboards, and their partygoing enters a new phase. Having found a mate, they go only to parties of dear friends or family.

This is the age-group of the dinner party, a phase in your life when you spend all Saturday flicking through your shelf of cookery books looking for a recipe which is enticing, doesn't require star anise, and also takes less than 20 minutes to prepare. At 5.30pm you again decide to cook the same

dullish-but-reliable menu that you have given your dinner guests for the past eight years. The sexual element is confined to flirting over drinks.

"And then the justice... full of wise saws and modern instances". In their forties, men and women find themselves at parties when they are delivering or collecting their children from birthday gatherings. Or else they are recently divorced and are going round the board again: they do this with greater or lesser enthusiasm, depending on whether or not they collected £200 a day in alimony when they passed Go. Their adult parties are now



The first age... and the last time partygoers will be able to have simple, unselfconscious fun

more usually the by-product of other activities: the cricket club summer ball, the rugby club dinner-dance, the Masonic ladies' night, the school parents' fundraising cheese-and-wine (with raffle: first prize — a Jeroboam of Moët; second prize — two tickets for any Odeon cinema; third prize — two hours of private piano tuition with Miss Buckram, the junior music teacher).

The other prominent diary entry is the Christmas office party, which is less promising than it was 20 years ago because (a) you are 20 years older; (b) your boss is 20 years older; (c) the woman you got frisky with at office parties 20 years ago now is your boss. Partygoers in their forties don't fantasise as much they used to. Those that still do, fantasise about winning third prize in the cheese-and-wine raffle.

"The sixth age slips into the lean and slippered pantaloon". Entering their fifties

and sixties, people attend each other's wedding anniversaries, golf club dinners, and retirement or redundancy bashes. They don't party *chez nous* so much as *en masse*, on Caribbean cruises, because they have fallen out with their children and want to squander all their cash before they shuffle off.

Men in their late fifties and beyond no longer wonder what it might have been like if they had married one of their female friends rather than the wife they chose, because their minds are now preoccupied with fantasising about their female friends' daughters.

"Last scene of all... Is second childishness... Sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything". In their seventies and eighties, people like to party once again because, as Shakespeare pointed out, they have reached a second childishness. Often they are too frail to travel alone, so have to be ferried to

and from parties as they were when they were five. They often eat as messily, too. They bounce like yo-yos not because they are playing a party game, but because they are showing off their new mental hip joint. Attendance at parties becomes a parade of honour of life's survivors.

Men in their eighties might look as if they lack the will, but they still have strong sexual passions: like Woody Allen, they fantasise that when they do eventually die they will be reincarnated as Warren Beatty's fingertips.

Some go further. One was so convinced of his need to smile more often that he took himself off to Stanford Shopping Centre and went home only after smiling at 1,000 people. "It can seem contrived," says one expert, "but it works. It's really thrilling, like seeing someone being reborn and come alive."

● The Shyness Clinic, which has treated clients from as far away as Indonesia, is at 4370 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, California 94028. Tel: (415) 415 328 6115.

SHYNESS

It's everywhere. In the media, on the high street, at work and at home, nowhere on the globe, it seems, is there an oasis where people are not bracing themselves for the onset of the party season. Hard to imagine that the cheerful prospect of several weeks' worth of strong drink and vigorous social interaction could strike dread into anyone's heart. But for a significant — and increasing — minority, the prospect of Christmas socialising is not a pleasure, but a very real ordeal.

Research has shown that at least 40 per cent of us suffer from chronic shyness, a "self-imposed prison of silence in solitary confinement", as Dr Philip Zimbardo, a shyness specialist, describes it, severe enough to interfere significantly with our private and working lives.

Very shy people can take a lifetime to recognise and control their symptoms, but according to Dr Lynne Henderson, one of America's foremost shyness experts, shyness is more likely to be learnt or fostered on us than inbred. The key to beating it is therefore to unlearn it.

Fifteen years ago, Dr Henderson set up the world's first shyness clinic near California's Stanford University. Every fortnight, shy people wanting tips on being braver turn up at the clinic's free "drop-in" sessions, where they can reclaim the business of being a social animal and learn to deal with the sort of fears that only the most brazen never feel.

Most of us, mercifully, can get over shyness even if we are born with it. The Shyness Clinic wants to help the large minority of the human race who aren't so lucky. Dr Henderson's central idea is simple: social fitness, like physical fitness, needs to be worked at.

"Few people turn into world-class athletes," she says. "In the same way, few people feel totally comfortable in every social setting, but everyone can connect with others in ways that are both emotionally satisfying and productive."

Some just need prodding. For them, Henderson has devised what she calls a social fitness model which is the basis of her clinic's treatment. The model is a set of goals ranging from relearning basic conversational skills to handling criticism, expressing emotions and "learning to say no". Most of the work is done in small groups at the clinic, but there is also "homework", often consisting of telephone calls that clients challenge themselves to make — to friends, colleagues, or fellow "shys".

Some go further. One was so convinced of his need to smile more often that he took himself off to Stanford Shopping Centre and went home only after smiling at 1,000 people. "It can seem contrived," says one expert, "but it works. It's really thrilling, like seeing someone being reborn and come alive."

● The Shyness Clinic, which has treated clients from as far away as Indonesia, is at 4370 Alpine Road, Portola Valley, California 94028. Tel: (415) 415 328 6115.

GILES WHITTELL

Blue Sky Appeal

Help Mencap reach more families

Each week 200 parents are told that their child has a learning disability. Mencap's Blue Sky Appeal is reaching out to these families with friendship, advice and support. To make your voice heard call 0645 777 779 now.

Charity no. 222577

Now you can drift off in the unique Cradle Seat

CLUB WORLD

BRITISH AIRWAYS

The world's favourite airline

ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



■ OPERA

Jonathan Miller's delicious staging of *The Mikado* comes back to the London Coliseum
OPENS: Tonight
REVIEW: Wednesday



■ JAZZ

A female Harry Connick? Rising singing star Diana Krall performs at Pizza Express, Soho
GIG: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ THEATRE

Roald Dahl's *The Witches* returns to the West End for a Christmas season at the Vaudeville
OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



■ BOOKS

Israel's Prime Minister, Binyamin Netanyahu, writes a handbook on *Fighting Terrorism*
IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Thursday

I find it hard to understand why Mrs Bottomley is not the most popular politician in Britain. She looks good, sounds good and always wants to do so much good. She is telegenic, photogenic, radio-highly active, and every time I meet her I think she's bound to be a winner. She is the minister of fun, and yet all she collects are catcalls. Why?

Recently, that distinguished economics commentator Sir Samuel Brittan wrote an article on the subject of Darwin and economics which he titled: "It's the biology, stupid". Given leave to employ a similar colloquial directness, if I were to say in a sentence why I thought Mrs Bottomley's name was not sung from the hillsides, chanted on the terraces and remembered in prayers I would reply: "It's the lottery, stupid".

The lottery adds to the gaiety of the nation, profits a few surprisingly decent citizens, and benefits a myriad of organisations throughout the land. Yet it has about it that unmistakable ring of no confi-

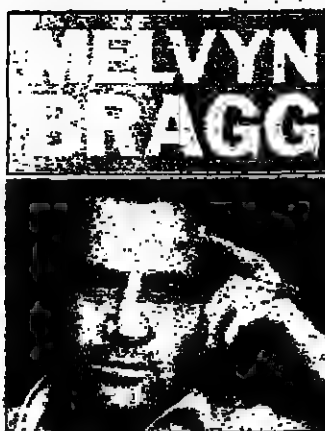
dence and alas, it all rubs off on Mrs Bottomley. She ought to be its queen bee. Adoring swarms should gather around her wherever she settles. Instead, most of what she gets is blame. Blame for giving too much to too few and too little to too many. Blame for the perceived overcompensation of Camelot, and blame for all the inevitable grudges which always outnumber gratitude.

Who is responsible for transforming this bouquet into a poisoned chalice? Cutting through Marxist and societal views of history, I would settle this time on individuals. Their lordships, I'm afraid, are responsible. Their lordships have not looked after their lady.

I refer here to their two lordships, Rothschild and Gower. Lord Gower, a warm acquaintance from long back and full of

fine deeds, seems an unlikely suspect; if it were possible to be even less likely a suspect, Lord Rothschild is that man. Yet it is because of them, I believe, that she does not wear the crown of a triumphant Tory populism.

From the outset (with that dire, politically inept and badly handled overpayment for the Churchill documents, which many people in Britain thought we might already own) there has been a whiff of the *droit de seigneur* — that the first dawning should come from the ancient regime. But this is public buncie. To see it dished out by those who have so much already, and too often, it seemed, to those who already have so much, was unacceptable. Those were the smoke signals from the lottery, and there was sufficient fire to keep the smoke going. Unfortunately for Mrs Bottomley, it fell into the gift



of those who, enormously enlightened though they are, epitomise and indeed seem to practise *de haut en bas* dispensation — out of touch with the times. But the lottery is modern.

So the lottery began at the top with the toffs and has not been able to shake this off. In some ways it has been on the run ever since, thus clouding Mrs B's opportunity to shine in a job for which she was surely sculpted by fortune, and one in which she could have won loud hurrahs for her party.

Of course — particularly in the past few weeks — it has begun to tackle its own prematurely archaic rules and organisation. It has taken a rather feeble shot at flexibility and a slightly better shot at populist buncie. But it may be too late. See how easily a document from the Labour Party which, among other things, queried Camelot, addressed the doubtful double role of the Director-General of Oflot, and came up with imaginative suggestions such as a community chest — and the

targeting of gifted children — how easily that makes the present engine look clanky.

The suspicion lingers that little thought was given to this grand opportunity. An aristocratic wave was never going to be enough, and the wave is rather a wave of goodbye to a wonderful chance Mrs Bottomley had to become a folk heroine.

You cannot expect order at the annual comedy awards. I was in the studio when the live events took place, and frankly at times I rather longed for more disorder than the general rowdiness which grew as the evening went on and the alcohol slid down. Spontaneous sallies from the audience, perhaps, to test the locomotive delivery of Jonathan Ross — he could cope, or a recipient who defied the three-line whip of 20

seconds of galloped thanks, and embarked on a shaggy dog story or forgot his name or sang a silly song. People are rattled on and off rather uncomfortably. The bar-raising was not well received by the massed comedians present — a good litmus test that it was not funny. The constant references to getting "pissed" were so true as to be more in the realm of documentaries than comedy.

And there is a recent, threatening development in such awards. That is the sending up of the person who makes the award, the person who receives the award, or both. We are told that the tyrannical younger viewer enjoys this and it can keep the show lively. But it also keeps it free of emotion, free of much sense of achievement and free of a sense of a classy event. Two of the older winners showed that the old way might still have some juice in it. Cilla Black was moved by what she clearly felt was a great moment: Dave Allen was truly witty. Honour was saved, applause was heartfelt.

Why they'll always boo poor Mrs B

A departure for Domingo

SOMETIMES lightning strikes during an opera performance, not very often, and occasionally in the unlikely circumstances. When it happens, Dr Johnson's "exotic and irrational entertainment" becomes a theatrical experience like no other.

It happened at Covent Garden on Friday in what the cynical might describe as unlikely circumstances: a one-off performance of *Die Walküre*, at gala prices to celebrate Plácido Domingo's 25th anni-

as beautifully sung a Siegmund as you could hope to hear. And as if to confound cynics, he entered fully into the spirit and the letter of the unconventional Richard Jones production.

He was joined in what was previously the most weakly cast section of this *Ring* by an outstanding Sieglinde, Karen Huffnagel. She is a soprano who always gives 110 per cent in performance, and then a bit more: she was in radiant, rock-steady voice and unleashed torrents of impassioned yet perfectly controlled singing. With Deborah Polaski (Brünnhilde), Jane Henschel (Fricka) and John Tomlinson (Wotan) all in even better form than for the recent cycles, this was an evening of rare vocal splendour.

versary with the Royal Opera and to launch a week in which he is generously presiding over fundraising for the Development Appeal.

Instead of singing Cavardossi — with which he made his debut in 1971 — as originally announced, Domingo chose to undertake his first Wagner role in London, Siegmund. It was a carry decision. The part lies perfectly for him, not too high, and exploiting the strength in the middle of his voice: there are precedents — Vickers, Vinay — for Otellos who are also fine Siegmunds. Add the Latin warmth of his sound and an Italianate sense of musical line, and you have

There were moments in the first act when it sounded as if a little more rehearsal might have been desirable, but Simone Young, also new to Wagner here, negotiated one or two awkward corners with an admirably cool head. Confidence and concentration grew in the second act, with a breakneck prelude and a perfectly paced account of the tricky Annunciation of Death, and lightning struck. The third act was simply electric from beginning to end. A thrilling evening, one that those lucky enough to attend will not easily forget.

RODNEY MILNES

THEATRE: A children's fairy-tale full of fun; plus bitter badinage from a disabled company

A feast of beastly riches

Not deaf to the issues

"A FAIRY-TALE thriller" is the subtitle of this year's Christmas show and the production certainly lives up to the description, with its abrupt extinction of lights in the auditorium (excited shrieks from the rows of school parties), the jump-cuts between scenes, and the agonised roars from the Beast.

Laurence Boswell sets the adventures in a fairy-tale France where Beauty's family, in their early years of wealth, wear 18th-century costume and spun-sugar wigs. The cast enters down the aisles of the theatre, chatting up the audience.

The set is a round, planked stage from which walkways slope up to three towering wardrobes, and at the start of the evening eight elegant metal chairs are arranged in a line across the diameter. Beauty's parents, her brothers and sisters, perch on these, tossing the narrative line between them, and a particularly effective moment deriving from this occurs when Beauty's mother dies: the actress (Jan Pearson) stands up as if surprised by the announcement and slowly, reluctantly moves away.

Liz May Brice's Beauty, her face expressing wonder, courtesy, moments of irritation but unflinching true grit, undergoes

the usual fairy-tale journey that climaxes, as it does in Strindberg's *Swanwhite* at the Gate, with an act of redemptive love. I have some difficulty with this concept, and a review of a Christmas show is not the place to enlarge upon it, but Boswell's plot throws a small wobble by not explaining why the Beast (Simon Gregor, growing behind the mask) is under a curse in the first place. A glance at the text in the programme reveals the character of a wicked queen who may have made her final exit during rehearsal.

Her departure leaves a slit in the logic but damages nei-

ther the excitement of Beauty's adventures, nor a spirit of fun that keeps bubbling back into the production. Gary Sefton's summing robotic servant is an excellent creation, and Vicki Pepperdine's automaton Maid is neatly funny too.

The character of the music (composer: Mick Sands) ingeniously changes as the story moves forward: Baroque elegance giving place to rustic jigs and, once the palace is reached, to Arabic, Indian and African melodies. Boswell's production gives plenty of enjoyable riches for the imagination to feed upon.

JEREMY KINGSTON



Simon Gregor in a mask part dragon's head, part tree root, and Liz May Brice as Beauty

A NUMBER of devils are set up to be knocked down in this collaboration between Graeme, Britain's leading disabled people's theatre company, and Basic Theatre, a black disabled company. Roy Winston's plot involves four black performers who represent Britain at an arts festival in America, where they are subjected to manipulative niceness by the organisers and

Sympathy for the Devil Tricycle

calls for militant agitation by Jud Evans, a white disabled-rights activist played by Jonathan Keeble.

As the badinage becomes more bitter, the members of the group dispute whether they owe allegiance to the black community, the disabled or their own individual desires. Consider that the group's director and dancer are in the midst of an affair, and you can imagine how the plot thickens.

Winston's best writing concerns pairs of characters. In one encounter, the group's partially deaf leader, Ray Harrison Graham's Fitzroy, explains to his incredulous mother (Deborah A. Williams) that he wants to marry a blind girl. Another features the one-handed Jackie (Williams again) and the blind Chantelle (Maria Osibodi), each of whom expounds with increasing spite on the romantic circumstances of her companion.

The writing in these scenes is absorbingly honest, and Graham himself directs with appropriate vigour.

ANDY LAVENDER

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS PERFORMANCES

SUNSET BLVD.
MATINEES: 23, 24, 27 & 28 DEC AT 3.00PM

ADELPHI THEATRE
0171 344 0055 (BKG FEE)

STARLIGHT EXPRESS
MATINEES: 23, 24, 27, 28, 31 DEC & 2 JAN AT 3.00PM

APOLLO VICTORIA THEATRE
0171 416 6070

BY JEEVES
MATINEES: 23, 24, 27, 28 DEC & 1 JAN AT 3.00PM

LYRIC THEATRE
0171 494 5045 (BKG FEE)

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR
MATINEES: 23, 24, 27, 28 DEC & 1 JAN AT 3.00PM

LYCEUM THEATRE
0171 656 1800

MATINEE CONCESSIONS BOOKABLE IN ADVANCE

"I do so appreciate the care and support that Rukba gives me"

Rukba is unique among charities for the elderly. Our financial help assists people to stay in their own homes, and we have an 800 strong home-visiting volunteer force of helpers. They listen to the problems and offer friendship. If you would like more information about our work, complete the coupon below or telephone 0345 58 56 80

Please send me more information

Name

Address

Postcode

Please send to: William Rukba, Dept TD, Rukba, FREEPOST, 6 Avonmore Road, London W14 8BR

Rukba
Helping elderly people stay independent

The Royal United Kingdom Benefactor Association, Reg. Charity No. 218729

English National Opera has boldly gone where no one else has dared — a triumph!

Die Soldaten
(Soldiers)
Box Office 0171 632 8300

REAL POWER AND PASSION. A BLOCKBUSTER! A MUSICAL MASTERPIECE!

PRINCE OF THE DREAM

PRINCE EDWARD THEATRE
0171 447 5400

Matthew Parris



■ Even six years on, the tribe still has a deep feeling of guilt, which explains its death-wish

SOME six years ago I tried in a *Times* parliamentary sketch to capture the Tory mood at the demise of Margaret Thatcher. And not only the mood, but (as I supposed) the forces I sensed at work within the parliamentary Conservative Party at that time.

I wrote of "the tribe". The tribe had suffered a great internal convulsion. They have not, as individuals, known what they were doing, but the tribe has known what it was doing.

They lashed out at the media, they lashed out at Europe, they lashed out at the Opposition, and they lashed out at each other.

"One of the elders of the tribe, Sir Geoffrey Howe, began to speak. He spoke almost in tongues; he spoke as if he had never spoken. He poured down imprecations on the head of the leader." Then Heseltine wielded the dagger. "With the leader now wounded, her own senior tribesmen drew back with one accord and left her. Suddenly alone, she hesitated, then staggered from the stage."

The tribe mourned her departure. Not falsely or without feeling they wept. Then the tribe fell upon her assailant, Michael Heseltine, and slew him too — with many shouts of anger. Real anger.

It could have been done as ballet. It had all the elements of a classical drama. Like Greek tragedy, the tribe cannot come to terms with what it did to her. There is an unwitting yearning to be purged for her murder. Loss of their first general election without her would have been a fit punishment, and the party wanted and expected it. John Major and the electorate cheated them of their catharsis.

For the Tory tribe, Mr Major has become a totem for its inability to say sorry. In hating him, they hate themselves and their own treachery. He was not the perpetrator of the treachery, but he was its beneficiary. Still alive and visibly distraught, Baroness Thatcher hangs still in the tribe's imaginative memory as a symbol of their undeserving.

The parliamentary Conservative Party does not believe in its own re-election would be just. Though any one of them can pretend otherwise, the tribe cannot pretend as a tribe. In this Gadarene flight towards nemesis, the tribe is being resisted by a Prime Minister who can see the cliff, and an electorate that, however it may dislike the Tories, is not convinced by the alternative.

Mr Major's efforts, however, may be futile. One person could save him, and that is Margaret Thatcher.

Record," explained one Blairite.

Given the circumstances, Humphrys's dressing-room chatter before the interview was revealing: "I meant to get my hair cut," he told the Prime Minister while powdering up, "but then I thought 'I'm not going to get my hair cut for David Blunkett.' Blunkett had been due to appear on the show before Major stepped in."



"It's Sarah asking if I will appear on her chat-show"

The Prime Minister has decided not to join the single currency, but cannot bring himself to say so

What Major meant to say was No

THE Prime Minister must have been well pleased with the success of yesterday's BBC interview with John Humphrys. He handles these big interviews very well. He sometimes sounds rather peevish at Prime Minister's Questions, but in these television interviews he usually sounds moderate, decisive and pleasantly relaxed. Yesterday's came after a bad week, which included the loss of his majority, a horrible opinion poll and some indiscreet lobby talk by Kenneth Clarke. John Major was not only able to defend himself from these tactical reverses, but to establish a moderate Euro-sceptic strategy for the general election.

The election will be in the spring, probably on May 1. The Amsterdam conference, which will decide the difficult issues of the inter-governmental conference, will be held in June. John Major yesterday made it clear that he is going to campaign on the theme: "Would you rather have Tony Blair going to Amsterdam and signing away the national interests of the United Kingdom which I have been fighting to defend?" Last Monday the mysterious source close to John Major flew a trial balloon in *The Daily Telegraph*. The source suggested there might be a commitment not to join the single currency in the next Parliament. The source found, and John Major found, the apple not yet ripe; indeed it proved to be green and bitter. The Prime Minister then had to reaffirm the old and shopworn open-option policy, and the trial balloon was shot down by Kenneth Clarke and Michael Heseltine. That does not mean that John Major might not have preferred to fight the next election on a policy of "no single currency in the next Parliament".

The Prime Minister is at his most formidable when he appears to be surrounded. Clarke and Heseltine

did put a stop to him making the direct challenge to Labour on the single currency. But each month that the election gets closer, Clarke and Heseltine become less powerful. They should not be provoked beyond endurance, but they will not be able to dictate policy during the campaign. If John Major wins, he will not be under any further obligation to either of them. They would then be people of no importance.

The policy John Major actually outlined to John Humphrys substituted a second-best but almost equally useful line on the single currency. John Major refused once again to rule out British entry, but he did emphatically rule it out if the potential members do not genuinely meet the Maastricht criteria. "If they are fudging the criteria, there is no question of the UK joining," he said. He also said the European economic convergence must be "sustainable". By next April there will be even more evidence on these points. There have already been notorious fudges in both France and Italy; neither country is likely to meet the budget deficit criterion by "sustainable" means. In an April campaign, the Prime Minister will be free to look at this evidence; if he concludes that there has been no sustainable convergence, he can then point back to this interview and say that he has long made it clear that there was no question of Britain joining an unsustainable euro-currency.

He also specified a number of other points which Britain will not accept in Amsterdam next June if he is still Prime Minister. He will not hand over to the European Union control of policy on borders, immigration and asylum. He will not accept qualified majority voting for a common European foreign policy. He will not accept any massive increase in majority voting. He will not accept a transfer of responsibility for employment policy, particularly as

William Rees-Mogg

our unemployment is now falling, while that of France and Italy is much higher.

In their comments after the broadcast, John Redwood, Geoffrey Howe and Peter Lilley all expressed their satisfaction at what had been said, which suggests that at least one of them may have misunderstood the Prime Minister's message. I found myself in particular agreement with Peter Lilley's observation that it was now time to press Labour for answers on Europe. The Conservative position is now reasonably clear, even if it is not as frank on the single currency as it should be. It centres on

the acceptance of a flexible European Union, with countries choosing to be in or out of particular commitments, including the single currency. The slogan is "co-operation, yes; centralisation, no". The Conservatives are not going to join in any great extension of the integration of Britain into Europe. The public do not want that either.

Which of John Major's relatively Euro-sceptic policies will Labour adopt? If Tony Blair goes to Amsterdam, and it is still probable that he will, will he accept the programme for centralisation proposed by some other European countries? Is he going to take Britain into a fudged single currency? Will he, as seems to be Labour policy, be willing to accept much more qualified majority voting? Will he depend on the customs officers of Naples, as the distant guardians of Britain against drug-smugglers and terrorists? Is he going to commit British Forces to back a foreign policy decided by the majority votes of countries who will make virtually no contribution of their own?

Strangely enough, John Major, in what was much the least satisfactory passage of the interview, gave Tony Blair a defence for refusing to answer these questions — although I hope Blair will not use it. Major complained that his critics were damaging his negotiating position, and used the metaphor of the poker table. Since

the time of Harold Macmillan I have learnt to distrust politicians who use metaphors derived from gambling. Major said that if you are "playing poker with 14 other skilled players, you don't turn your cards face up," and claimed he had "good reason to be opaque". On Europe, in the past, he has destroyed public confidence by being far too opaque.

At the next election, neither John Major nor Tony Blair will be playing poker, which is a game of deceit, but the game of democracy. Entering the single currency is the biggest economic decision since Britain joined the Common Market. Almost all the relevant facts are known already. By the election there will be more than ample evidence on which to decide whether Britain should go in or stay out. Kenneth Clarke's threat to resign has made it difficult for John Major to make public the decision to stay out, which in substance he has already taken. That is itself a serious weakness of the Conservative campaign. But John Major has found a way to sidestep Kenneth Clarke, and in April there will be little doubt about the real thrust of Conservative policy.

The Labour position on Europe is in much greater doubt. We know they are more Europhile than the Conservatives but we do not know what that means. I doubt whether Tony Blair would take us into a single currency; the referendum commitment probably ties his hands anyway. I fear that Tony Blair might agree to unacceptable centralising measures at Amsterdam through inexperience and a good natural desire to make a good impression on his first big European occasion. If so, he will regret it later on. What is certain is that Labour will have to answer the European questions. Once again, like a skilful dentist, John Major has managed to find a gold filling in what appeared 24 hours ago to be the jaws of death.

It's too late now to change

Peter Riddell says voters have already made up their minds about the parties

JOHN Major yesterday presented the best case for the Government and its European policies that I have heard for a long time. His approach is not only in the national interest but is also politically right. But it probably comes too late, since the Tories appear in no mood to come to their senses. It is a fantasy to believe that a dramatic new initiative or change of course in Europe would suddenly improve the Tories' prospects, rather than damage them further.

Barring acts of God, wars or sudden deaths, the decisive shift in public opinion has already occurred as a result of the Tories' earlier mistakes and divisions and of the reinvention of Labour under Tony Blair. What happens between now and polling day may affect the scale of victory or defeat, but not which party wins. These months are highly unlikely to save the Conservatives.

Of course, the size of any majority is important, not least to individual MPs and candidates. But campaigns, whether the current preliminary skirmishing or the final four-week battle, are nearly as important as politicians and the media like to believe. It is easy for insiders to become caught up in the latest propaganda exchanges or rows of the day, and to believe they have a big impact. There is little evidence that the battle over "Jennifer's ear" or Neil Kinnock's triumphalist Sheffield rally made any real difference to the 1992 result. The public is more detached and sensible.

Elections are very seldom decided by the immediate campaigns. Admittedly, many voters, between a fifth and a quarter, say they decide on



their choice during the campaign, but this does not mean they decide because of the campaign, as opposed to the more need to make a decision. Levels of party support do shift during campaigns, often to favour the third party, but these changes have very seldom been enough to alter the result. Most movements cancel each other out, while many undecided or hesitant voters revert to previous loyalties.

Based on the comprehensive data of the long-running British Election Study, the several authors of *Labour's Last Chance?* concluded that in 1992 it was "very unlikely that Labour could have done anything in the campaign to have generated enough votes for an overall majority or even to have made it the largest party in a hung Parliament... The 1992 election was like most of its

predecessors won and lost before the official campaign ever began."

But campaign strategists still have a powerful hold. Labour was, for example, widely thought to have "won" the 1987 and 1992 campaigns, and some of its leaders congratulated themselves on having fought a "good" war, even though the party lost where it really mattered, in the ballot box. Professor Dennis Kavanagh, one of Britain's leading political academics, argues in his book *Election Campaigning* that communications and media strategies can distract politicians, and commentators, from the underlying policy problems of parties. Rather than campaigns, "enduring forces like the voters' social class, religion,

party identification, the Government's record and longstanding images of the parties are more electorally decisive". Most campaign activities are of "marginal importance one way or the other in deciding the election outcome — although in close-run contests they can mean the difference between defeat and victory, and politicians are motivated by the possibility that their efforts might make the difference."

The millions of pounds poured into campaigns are mainly a defensive exercise, to prevent opponents gaining an edge. There is always the fear that something might go disastrously wrong — a fear that Margaret Thatcher felt even at the height of her success. And there is the awful warning of Labour's self-destruction under Michael Foot in 1983.

Campaigning can still be impor-

tant at a local level. There is evidence that energetic local campaigning, aimed at target groups of voters, can make a difference of at least a few hundred votes, enough to win or lose in close contests. After all, Labour won about 20 more seats in 1992 than would have been expected given its national share of the vote. This partly reflected its concentration on critical marginals. If the Tories had held on, Mr Major would have had much more room for manoeuvre since 1992.

Parties will always campaign aggressively in the belief that somebody might be influenced. The most effective strategies are those that reinforce existing images. It is not possible to change the public's view of a party, or a leader, during the run-up to polling day. A sudden change will be unconvincing. That is why it is ludicrous for the hard-core sceptics to argue that Tory prospects could be transformed if Mr Major ruled out participation in a single currency. A sizeable minority of committed Tories certainly regard Europe as their top priority, and the issue has been moving up the rankings of importance among voters generally, but it is still well behind health, education, law and order and the economy. Europe is not a vote-winner. Any supposed gains would anyway be more than cancelled out by the losses from the resulting party splits and obvious inconsistencies in policy.

The Tories' only real course is to play the Honest John card, as Mr Major did in his *On the Record* interview. He is at his best when he appears as the man of common sense and experience, and at his worst when he is the partisan and strident party leader. The Tories can claim to have taken necessary tough decisions on the economy and public services, and can contrast this with Labour's evasions. Just as it would be foolish for Labour to compete with the Tories on tax-cutting, so it would be counterproductive for the Tories to abandon their current European policy and to dump a highly successful Chancellor like Kenneth Clarke. Voters are repelled, rather than attracted, by such panicky gestures.

Blair block

JOHN MAJOR'S interview yesterday for the BBC was unprecedented in taking place not in No 10 but in the Prime Minister's cane-furniture conservatory in Huntingdon. But an interview with Tony Blair at his house in Islington, or anywhere else for that matter, would have been even more surprising.

Despite repeated requests from the BBC, Blair hasn't found time for a Sunday lunchtime grilling in the past two years. His most recent appearance was in January 1995, talk at the corporation is that he is frightened of a 50-minute going-over from John Humphrys.

Such suggestions are dismissed by the Labour leader's office as "pathetic", and party sources claim that he is deliberately snubbing the programme. Blair simply hasn't been seeing eye to eye with his editor, David Jordan, they say.

"Perhaps if David Jordan had not been so instrumental in defending *Panorama*'s plan to screen an interview with Major just days before Scotland's local elections — a plan which was scuppered by the courts — Tony might have been better disposed towards *On the*

Record," explained one Blairite. Given the circumstances, Humphrys's dressing-room chatter before the interview was revealing: "I meant to get my hair cut," he told the Prime Minister while powdering up, "but then I thought 'I'm not going to get my hair cut for David Blunkett.' Blunkett had been due to appear on the show before Major stepped in."



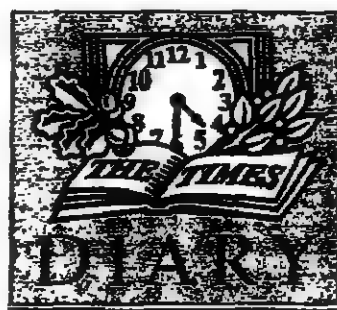
"It's Sarah asking if I will appear on her chat-show"

● Tony Blair and his family and friends spent Saturday evening celebrating his younger son Nicholas's 10th birthday at Babe Ruth's, a sports-themed restaurant in east London not renowned for its food. After the meal, Blair Sr joined Nicholas for a game of basketball on a mini-pitch in the restaurant. Nicholas wore his birthday present, a Manchester United shirt. Blair and number 10 were written on the back.

Yawn radio

AVOID THE radio station Classic FM on Christmas Day, for Westminster's politicians are taking over and broadcasting for much of the afternoon. The likes of Diane Abbott, Jerry Hayes and Edwina Currie (who else?) will be performing in a version of Gilbert and Sullivan's operetta *Iolanthe*. It sounds difficult enough to bear even without a plot which involves Abbott marrying Hayes. Light relief comes in the form of Lords Healey and Howe, who each make a cameo appearance. And then there is Clare Short in her role as Queen of the Fairies. I shall not be on their wavelength.

● With justice denied him in his home country, France's flying



dwarf, Manuel Wackenheim, is turning elsewhere to defend his right to be shot out of a cannon. In 1991, the French Ministry for the Interior declared that *Wackenheim's* projectile vivand act was "a danger to public morality". France's highest administrative court, the *Conseil d'Etat*, upheld the ban and the European Court of Human Rights has other things to discuss, so Wackenheim is taking his case to the International Court of Justice instead.

Far right

ALESSANDRA MUSSOLINI, the granddaughter of Il Duce — who has fortunately inherited her looks from her aunt, Sophia Loren, rather than her grandfather — has returned to the bosom of the post-

Fascist party in Italy, the Alleanza Nazionale.

It was just three weeks ago that she flounced off from the party declaring that the post-Fascist leader, Gianfranco Fini, had lost his way. She joined a party yet further to the right, the Tricolour Flame, which claims to be loyal to the traditions of Mussolini's Blackshirts, and still does the Fascist salute at its party congresses.

At the weekend, Signor Fini boasted on a Italian radio phone-in that Alessandra was returning to



Miss Mussolini for mayor?

the fold. Minutes later, Alessandra herself phoned into the show to confirm it. Talk is that she will now stand for election as mayor of Rome for the post-Fascists.

Trump card

NEW YORK property developer Donald Trump, seldom less than artful about polishing his reputation, is boasting of winning arguably the world's biggest gamble. Trump claims to have bet \$1 million on Evander Holyfield to win his recent world boxing heavyweight championship bout against Mike Tyson. Sure enough, Holyfield came home, on odds (says Trump) of 20-1, leaving "The Donald" with a \$20 million win. "I have to admit, I was surprised when Holyfield won," said Trump at a New York party last week. He claims to have made the bet in Nevada, but the losing bookie has yet to be found.

Steep bank

BASE CAMP on Sir Ranulph Fiennes's polar trek with his 500lb sled, and they are thankful they have not yet encountered difficulties with crevasses. Showing off last October before he set off, the



Fiennes so far

bullet-headed former SAS officer gave a demonstration of how to escape from a crevasse. He attempted to scale the 300ft former Barclays Tower in the City of London, his sled dangling beneath.

Just 15ft from the ground, Sir Ranulph came unstuck. Tangled in his ropes, he was trussed up like a Christmas turkey, unable to move up or down. The window-clearing which was lowered to rescue him: "I'm an explorer, not a climber," he said huffily.

P.H.S



DANGEROUS EXPANSION

Why early enlargement could fatally weaken the Nato alliance

The second Clinton Administration's most awkward and important strategic task will be the construction of a stable and durable post-Cold War settlement in Europe. This will require a hard-headed American look at the policy of extending Nato into Central Europe, for which the alliance's foreign ministers are expected to set a negotiating timetable when they meet tomorrow.

When they embarked on this path, Western governments may sincerely have believed that Nato enlargement would be a force for European stability. There is barely a politician, let alone a senior military commander, who believes that now. Instead they refer to Nato's "obligation to accept the new democracies", or talk about guarding against a new security vacuum; or privately, say simply that for the West to back off now would send "the wrong message to Russia".

The first two arguments are disingenuous, since the West intends to leave democratic states in the Baltics and Balkans — precisely those most vulnerable to a security vacuum — on the other side of Europe's new dividing line. The third cannot conceivably justify heading into a foreseeable confrontation with Russia that would jeopardise arms control agreements and bolster revanchist anti-Western nationalism. That could prove to be the last great geostrategic blunder of this dreadful century.

If the West is genuinely to enhance European security, three historical precedents provide guidance — the peace settlements of 1815 and 1919; and the handling of Germany after 1945. The lesson they teach is that when, as with France after 1815 and Germany after 1945, vanquished but potentially formidable aggressors are folded into new political structures, the reward is durable peace. The penal strictures of the Treaty of Versailles, by contrast, fed resentments that assisted the rise of Nazi dictatorship. With the most honourable and indeed peaceful of intentions, the West is busy breeding in contemporary Russia much the same sense of outraged national

pride and insecurity that warped German politics in the interwar years.

If enlargement also lowers Nato's credibility as a military alliance, it will have created the worst of all worlds. That is likely, for two reasons. The first is that if Nato meets its goal of admitting new members by its 50th anniversary in 1999, or does so soon after, their armed forces will not be adequately trained or equipped to participate reliably in Nato's integrated military structure. For some years, they will be second-class members, and seen to be such since Nato plans to station no alliance forces on the territory of the new members.

The second could be called the "no war for Maribor" problem. Nato parliaments must ratify any enlargement treaty. When Nato was founded, the US Senate was persuaded only with great difficulty to underwrite the core Article 5 guarantee that an attack on one member is an attack on all. Now the US Senate may well refuse to accept the major new security commitment of extending Article 5 protection from Western Europe to countries such as Slovakia or Slovenia.

If that happened, the whole of Nato would be gravely weakened. Yet so conscious are Western European governments of their debts of honour, particularly to Poland and the Czech Republic, that none of them is prepared to apply the brakes. America alone could do so — by insisting that Nato enlargement should be an outgrowth of the expansion of the European Union. That would buy time to work out ways of meeting Mr Clinton's pledge to include Russia in "a security circle for all of Europe". It would force the Europeans to face the double standards they have applied with respect to the continent's new democracies.

The start of a new term gives Mr Clinton his window of opportunity. He may not yet be persuaded of the geopolitical risks of enlargement; but this most political of Presidents is not the man to court the risk of an historic defeat at the hands of the US Senate. That should concentrate his mind.

QUESTIONS UNANSWERED

Major spoke well but solved nothing

Rising, as ever, to the challenge of a party crisis, John Major was confident and relaxed in his BBC interview yesterday. The Prime Minister's answers, however, are unlikely to satisfy the backbenchers and voters of all persuasions who reject the Government policy of remaining forever silent on the most important issue facing the country in the approaching general election.

The Prime Minister's statements remained full of familiar inconsistencies and evasions. On the one hand, Mr Major said, it would be quite wrong for Britain to state its opposition to the single currency, because if it did, this country would lose all influence over the design of economic and monetary union. Yet he was prepared to say, in advance of all negotiation, that he would not countenance ceding any power whatsoever to Brussels over Britain's borders, or immigration. The implication was that border controls and asylum policy is not open to negotiation, while control over the economy is. Does Mr Major seriously want to suggest that policy on rabid dogs and asylum-seekers is more important than who sets Britain's interest rates?

Because he is so reluctant to offend his Chancellor, the Prime Minister seems unable to see that the single currency involves matters of principle, as well as calculations about temporary economic interests. To him, the choice facing Britain appears to be merely a matter of contingent economics. If he were to apply this approach to a common immigration policy, he would negotiate quite happily with other member states, wait to see what the result was, and decide whether or not Britain should support it once he had looked at such details as whether first cousins, or just spouses should be allowed to live in the EU.

The Prime Minister held out the vague hope of using the narrow economic grounds of the convergence criteria to try to stop the EMU project. That would be wholly

desirable, and justifiable, if he could show that the relevant economic figures were fudged. But what if they are not? What if only Germany and a few other fiscally responsible countries went ahead? Would Mr Major then gleefully sign Britain up for the single currency? The only answer he is willing to give is "trust me".

That would be easier to do if voters knew what the Prime Minister's instincts really were. How far will Mr Major go to stop further centralisation? How much more important for him is that Britain should remain "at the heart of Europe"? The electorate is growing increasingly sensitive to these distinctions. The Prime Minister has become a political stunt driver, sometimes a courageous one, but he is running out of road.

Mr Major reiterated yesterday the misleading argument that, if Britain stated in advance that it would not want take part in EMU, it would lose its right to negotiate and vote. This is simply untrue. Whether "in" or "out", each EU country retains its place at the table and its vote. Mr Major may be right to suggest that Britain would lose influence with other countries if it ruled itself out. But even this argument is diminishing in strength as it becomes clear that the attitudes of the "outs" will have a huge effect on the success or failure of the single currency.

We have in the past accepted that Mr Major's equivocal stance may be diplomatically helpful for a time. The question is still how long that equivocation can helpfully and realistically last. The Prime Minister claimed yesterday to be putting the national interest above the party interest. As the election approaches, the two will coincide. The nation will demand to know what he intends to do with the pound. The party will demand that he refuse to give it away. The one answer that he will no longer be able to offer is, "wait and see".

HEROES WITH HERNIAS

The daring young outpatient on the flying trapeze

Among the many deserving objects of our sympathy this Christmas season, spare the briefest of thoughts for Matthew Kelly. Mr Kelly is billed to play Mother Goose at the Birmingham Hippodrome this year. With the Hippodrome's run hardly begun, Mr Kelly has already been singled out as a likely candidate for a new form of industrial injury: pantomime-hernia. The production company staging Birmingham's Mother Goose and 32 similar hiss-and-boos spectacles reckons that Mr Kelly has the most strenuous time of all its performers: 18 split-second costume changes in each performance — and he goes up in a balloon.

Apparently Mr Kelly is only one of a growing number of professional actors who are succumbing to this new middle-class epidemic, not to mention the many unknown victims among the volunteers who star in the local amateur productions of *Peter Pan* put on by the WI. Before we know where we are, the shop stewards of Equity will be demanding a special hernia allowance for the seven persons of restricted height who have to lug Snow White around the stage. If the hernia epidemic during the

intensive pantomime season is taken as a sign of a wider danger, the contagion may spread. Will the diva who is required to hurl herself over the battlements at the end of *Tosca* or the baritone singing *Rigoletto* who must carry his daughter in a sack demand extra insurance?

Pantomime creates jobs for actors like nothing else all year. If this year's script says that the cosmic fairy flies all the way round the auditorium over the audience's head, then that's what *Scorpio of Gladiators* will have to do. If he doesn't, there will be other resting celebrities ready to take his place.

If the injury rate makes casts difficult to assemble, a simple solution is to hand. Sports celebrities make second careers for themselves on television, so why should they not become panto stars? Alan Shearer as Dick Whittington, Ian Botham as Puss In Boots, the list of possibilities is endless. They are available, they are fit and they don't limp off to the doctor the first time anyone asks them to lift anything heavier than a handbag. By all accounts, Frank Bruno was a fine genie in *Aladdin* a few years back. Perhaps he was ahead of his time.

'Misconceptions' on joining EMU

From Sir Thomas Macpherson

Sir, You reported (Business, later editions, December 5) the speech made in London by M J-C. Trichet, Governor of the Bank of France. As a believer in the eventual necessity of a common currency, and in the virtual certainty that some countries will initiate it more or less on schedule, I listened with interest to the array of unchallengeable facts he quoted. There were two areas, however, where he appeared to share familiar misconceptions.

First, he claimed the unfortunately named euro marked "the sweeping away of the final barriers". Not true. There are many barriers to go first — in the investment and insurance markets, telecommunications, transport and energy, and many non-tariff barriers on physical goods. And certain member countries are still blatantly propping up non-competitive enterprises with state aids.

Secondly, he asserted without doubt that the euro would be a strong and stable currency. Increasingly doubtful. Several potential founder members will creep under the wire of the Maastricht criteria by one-off devices, which by definition cannot be repeated. At least one passes the tests through the large percentage of its GDP represented by EU subsidies — when they cease, it fails to qualify.

Finally, the common currency's future depends on the readiness of members to indulge in emergency fiscal transfers from the EU budget to which they contribute. This is only likely to work if there is agreement on a radical reform and reduction of the CAP. Certain members oppose this.

These are among the factors that may make the euro at least initially a vulnerable currency which has to be sustained by upward movement in interest rates.

Britain is right to await developments — but must be deeply involved in helping to establish the practical technicalities. We shall, in or out, be vitally interested in their workability.

Yours faithfully,
TOMMY MACPHERSON,
President, European Chambers of Commerce, 1992-93,
1 Appold Street, EC2,
December 5.

From Mr Rodney Leach

Sir, What exactly is it that we are waiting to see? If the euro promises to be as strong as the Bundesbank wishes, based on strict initial adherence to the Maastricht criteria and a tough stability pact, would we regard this as a plus or a minus? Alternatively, if Italy, Spain and Belgium are admitted, flexible fiscal policies are allowed and the euro becomes a softer currency, would that encourage or discourage us?

Presumably the Cabinet has views about what would influence its recommendation whether or not to join EMU. If so, these views should be stated, since they concern the single most important issue in British life. As it is, a policy of non-commitment without reference to questions of substance is open to two interpretations, both unwelcome — that it conceals some other policy or that there is in fact no policy at all.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY LEACH,
3 Lombard Street, EC3,
December 3.

From Mr Andrew Reid

Sir, It is fallacious for hardcore Eurosceptics to claim that the Government's "wait and see" policy is out of step with the rest of the party.

I know that a significant number of Young Conservatives and Conservative Students, like the majority of the party's grassroots, endorse the Prime Minister's flexible approach to a single currency. Not to make a decision until one has all the facts in place seems eminently sensible and worthy of a responsible political party.

What is irresponsible, even masochistic, is for backbench MPs to call for the Chancellor's head. The most successful Chancellor in 20 years, who has overseen a remarkable transformation in Britain's economic fortunes, seems a peculiar choice for the chop.

In this pre-election period it would be better for those who represent Conservatives in Parliament to direct their firepower on the Labour Party. That is what true Conservatives want.

Yours faithfully,
ANDREW REID
(President, Young Conservative Group for Europe),
21 Charlbert Court,
Charlbert Street, NW8.

Gregorian precedent

From Professor P. S. Atiyah

Sir, Mr Clarke does well to warn us against saying aloud from European reforms, only to have to join them later with more difficulty. But the precedents for this type of behaviour go back further than he has suggested.

When the Julian Calendar was reformed by Pope Gregory in 1582 Britain refused to have any part of it for nearly 200 years. This delay meant that when we finally did pass the Calendar Act of 1752, we were left with the most absurd fiscal year in the world, starting on April 6. Struggling with self-assessment, I could wish that Mr Clarke would move the beginning of the fiscal year to January 1 where it more sensibly belongs.

Yours faithfully,
P. S. ATIYAH,
75 Main Road, Long Harborough,
Wimsey, Oxfordshire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Edward VIII: folly or treason of a monarch in exile?

From Mr Michael Ryan

Sir, Despite the damning wave of new releases from the Public Record Office confirming in extraordinary detail the truth of Channel 4's two programmes on Edward VIII, (report, December 4), Mr Philip Ziegler still believes the former King was "a fool, but no traitor" ("Nothing to be done with the playboy Duke", December 4).

The evidence that Edward was a traitor turns on his actions. The programmes can speak for themselves, but let me cite a few examples of his deeds, not just his pro-Nazi opinions. In the winter of 1940, as a military liaison officer in France, Edward revealed winningly or unwittingly to the Nazis details of the Allied battle plans. Hitler later changed his plan of attack for the invasion of France, choosing the route through the Ardennes.

Edward's extraordinary prevarications in Spain and Portugal show that he actively encouraged the Nazi plot to return him to the throne. If he was a patriot, why did he not make a public pronouncement dissociating himself from Hitler's blandishments?

As Governor of the Bahamas, Edward not only expressed pro-Nazi sentiments to the American journalist Fulton Oursler, but persuaded him to visit President Roosevelt to plead his case. The purpose of the mission was to keep America out of the war, and to

strike a deal with Hitler.

Edward expected that "peace" would lead to a popular revolt in Britain, and he would be returned again as King. Thus, at a time when his fellow countrymen stood alone, the Duke was running his own pro-Hitler foreign policy from Government House. Where does "folly" end, and "treason" begin?

The release 40 years early of the PRO papers is to be welcomed. May we now, in this new spirit of glasnost, have access to the royal archives?

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL RYAN,
(Producer, *Edward VIII: the Traitor King*),
Hart Ryan Productions Ltd,
84 Long Lane, SE1,
December 5.

From Professor Emeritus D. Cameron Watt

Sir, In justice to the Duke of Windsor's name, it must be pointed out that the chances of an "unnamed source" with contacts in German-occupied Czechoslovakia knowing in 1940 of German contacts with the Duke and Duchess of Windsor other than those published in the 1950s are slim.

MI6's prewar network in Germany had been largely wiped out by the progressive loss of its stations in Berlin, Vienna, Prague and The Netherlands

between 1938 and May 1940. Czech Intelligence (and Polish) provided some alternative until our stations in Stockholm, Berne and Ankara were able to build new networks in Germany; but it appears to have been seized on a view of Hitler's dependence on the German military which we now know to have been completely wrong.

Czech political information out of Germany at best represented what its sources thought. The report that the Germans were offering the Duchess the restoration of her husband as a German puppet is, in a word, diplomatic tit-for-tat from the fringes of the German diplomatic service, if indeed it is nothing more sinister.

Of course, one ringing declaration by the Duke of his faith in his fellow countrymen and in ultimate British victory would have destroyed all the rumours and expectations. The Duke never felt any compulsion so to identify himself with the sentiments of his fellow countrymen. He preferred to play the role of King Zog of Albania, a monarch in exile without a government to support him.

Yours faithfully,
D. CAMERON WATT,
The London School of Economics and Science,
Department of International History,
Houghton Street, WC2,
December 4.

Gibraltar's sovereignty

From Dr Joseph Garcia, Leader of the Gibraltar National Party

Sir, Your editorial today, "A civilian in the Convent", is correct in assuming that the choice of Sir Richard Luce as our first civilian Governor is a cause for anxiety in Gibraltar, as is the manner in which the appointment has been executed. The fait accompli, without any consultation with the locally elected Government of Gibraltar, smacks of colonialism and disrespect for the wishes of the Gibraltarians.

This would have been a welcome change from a military man had it come as part of a wider package of constitutional reform. The Rock's political structure dates back to 1969 and is in sore need of updating, predating as it does both Britain and Gibraltar's entry into Europe in 1973.

Sir Richard's own track-record in relation to the Falkland Islands and Hong Kong will only serve to send the wrong signals to Spain. It is regrettable indeed that such an historic

change, breaking with nearly 300 years of tradition, should have come about in this dictatorial manner.

Yours faithfully,
J. GARCIA,
Leader, Gibraltar National Party,
PO Box 225,
93 Irish Town, Gibraltar,
December 4.

From Mr James Nation

Sir, You say that "Gibraltar's sovereignty is not and must not be negotiable over the heads of the Gibraltarians themselves". Why ever not? We did it to Hong Kong over the heads of Hong Kongers, so what is to stop us doing the same to Gibraltarians?

I have lived in both colonies and urge my Gibraltarian friends to watch these slippery Brits very carefully; my Hong Kong friends will tell you that they are not to be trusted.

Yours faithfully,
JAMES NATION,
117 Upper Brook Street,
Westchester, Hampshire,
December 5.

Music in church

From Mrs Christine Osborne and Mr Ted Salmon

Sir, "Children in church are now a rarity," claims Roger Scruton ("Silent night of our hymns", November 30; letters, December 7). May we, through the courtesy of your columns, invite him to St Barnabas, Dulwich.

We have a choir of 67 which includes 35 children and seven teenagers. One of our choristers was Choirboy of the Year recently and several have gone to choir schools or gained choral scholarships to their universities. The rest of the congregation pulsates with children: we have 170 families registered.

Our choirmaster and organist leads us in choral worship with ancient and modern hymns from a variety of sources which are sung enthusiastically by

all ages. Our children certainly do not "stand in awkward and undignified silence". All aspects of worship draw on the deep tradition of Anglicanism while using contemporary media.

Ten weeks ago we moved into the newest church in the United Kingdom. Our choir are robed in royal blue and scarlet, our pipe organ is being built and will be dedicated on Palm Sunday. Our children have new accommodation for their teaching groups.

We may appear to be blowing our own trumpet. We would rather we all praised God with enthusiasm and reverence.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTINE OSBORNE,
TED SALMON (Churchwardens),
St Barnabas Church,
Calton Avenue, SE21,
December 7.

Exeter politics

From Mr Stephen Pettitt

Sir, Dr Adrian Rogers, Conservative prospective candidate for Exeter (letter, December 4; see also letters, December 7), cites the wisdom of the Judeo-Christian culture (whose condemnation is in any case debatable) as one reason for his own condemnation of homosexual practices.

If Dr Rogers is so strongly convinced of the rightness of Judeo-Christian thought, he must believe both in a vengeful God and in the tenet of not judging, lest he himself be judged. So why doesn't he just stay mum, secure in the knowledge that God will make His own decision and banish people like me to the eternal flames come the final reckoning?

Yours sincerely,
STEPHEN PETTITT,
39 Darwin Road, WS.

From the Chair of the Exeter University Debating Society

Sir, Dr Rogers's claim that it is the Exeter Labour Party that has stimulated this debate is misleading. The Labour candidate for Exeter, Mr Ben Bradshaw, declined to debate this issue before the Exeter University Debating Society and has insisted that it is more than a one-issue campaigner. Dr Rogers, however, did speak and in so doing proceeded to score political points by referring to Mr Bradshaw's absence.

Attempts by the Exeter University Debating Society to remove the debate from a party political level were vetoed by Dr Rogers's refusal to share the platform with Mr David Allen, chairman of the Tory Campaign for Homosexual Equality.

Yours sincerely,
GRAHAM D. S. GEE,
Chair, Exeter University Debating Society,
Devonshire House, Exeter, Devon,
December 4.

Workplace bullying

From Mr Graham Allen, MP for Nottingham North (Labour)

Sir, I am glad to see justice has been done ("Clerk wins damages over bullying" later editions, December 3) over one of the increasing number of assaults at work which, I understand, have doubled in the period 1981-91.

I hope that cases such as the bullying incident you covered will increase awareness of the problem sufficiently for positive action to be taken by employers. At the very least, violence or bullying must be properly monitored and counselling for victims provided. In the longer term we must ensure that prosecution and sentencing for violence or victimisation at work is a real deterrent.

Yours sincerely,
G. W. ALLEN,
(Shadow Environment Minister Health and Safety),
House of Commons,
December 4.

Writers cramped

From Ms Janet Menzies

Sir, Your column headed *The Listener* (Media and Marketing, December 4) implies that *Daily Express* Editor Richard Addis's Christmas drinks party for his staff being held in the canteen is a step down. Under the previous management such festivities always took place in the corridor outside the Editor's office.

Yours faithfully,
JANET MENZIES, (Women's Editor),
The Daily Express, 1991-93,
Brambledown,
The Avenue, Westerham, Kent,
December 4.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 0171-782-5046.

Lords reform

From Professor Rodney Brazier

Sir, The Shadow Lord Chancellor, Lord Irvine of Lairg, is wrong to assume that a Labour government would be able to flood the House of Lords quickly with life peers to overcome resistance to Labour's constitutional legislation (report and article, December 5).

New peers cannot vote until they have been introduced into the House, which is master of its own procedures. Under these procedures, usually not more than two introductions take place on any day. The Conservative majority of peers is unlikely to allow changes to standing orders so as to hasten the demise of hereditary peers. Indeed, in theory it could vote to slow down the rate of introductions.

The Parliament Acts alone provide the mechanism accepted by both Houses as governing any irreconcilable disputes between them over legislation.

Yours faithfully,
RODNEY BRAZIER,
(Professor of Constitutional Law),
The University of Manchester,
Faculty of Law,
Mansfield Cooper Building,
Oxford Road, Manchester,
December 6.

From Lord Wigoder, QC

Sir, You report today that prominent members of the Labour Party are threatening that a Labour government would create many hundreds of life peers in order to ensure the passage of its proposed reform of the House of Lords.

This it has no power to do. All it can do is to threaten to advise the Queen to make such appointments — a matter entirely for the Royal Prerogative.

Whether by modern constitutional practice the monarch is obliged to act upon a Prime Minister's request which would materially change the composition of one of the Houses of Parliament — unless he has the specific mandate of the electorate following a general election in which the proposal was clearly the principal issue, or possibly a referendum — must be open to serious doubt.

Yours sincerely,
WIGODER,
House of Lords,
December 5.

What's in a name?

From Mr Tim Bullamore

Sir, I was both flattered and embarrassed to be greeted by a French musician I had been assigned to meet at Heathrow airport with the words: "Ah, you must be Monsieur Belle-Amour" (letters, November 14, 21, 26, 30, December 7).

Yours humbly,
TIM BULLAMORE,
25 Brock Street, Bath,
December 7.

From Mr William Warre

Sir, A fellow member of the Institute of Masters of Wine, Michael Peace, once invited me to join him in partnership.

This never happened, so saving Tolstoy from turning in his grave.

Yours faithfully,
WILLIAM WARRE,
41 Ridgway Place, SW19,
December 7.

From Mr Graham Roberts

Sir, A few years ago, at a local health authority summer garden party, I introduced Mr Frank Carnall, OBE, to a friend of mine as Mr Knowledge. Word association has its perils.

Yours faithfully,
GRAHAM ROBERTS,
Merrie Meade,
24 Allanson Road,
Rhos-on-Sea, Colwyn Bay, Conwy,
December 5.

OBITUARIES

SIR BASIL NIELD

Sir Basil Nield, CBE, Justice of the High Court, Queen's Bench Division, 1960-78, and MP for Chester 1940-56, died on December 4 aged 93. He was born on May 7, 1903.

The last former Conservative MP to be raised to the High Court bench, and the only such judge to have presided at all the 61 historic assize towns in England and Wales before the assize system was abolished in 1972, Basil Nield had a long and distinguished life of service to the law, politics, the Church and the Army.

He entered the chambers in Liverpool of Egerton Stuart Brown and joined the Northern Circuit, where it quickly became obvious that he was destined for success at the Bar. His advocacy was marked by an unflinching courtesy, and he soon became a popular choice among the local solicitors and a well-liked member of the circuit, in which he held such offices as Junior, Messenger and Crier. The latter two are connected with certain time-honoured rituals in the circuit Bar mess; the posts have existed since James Boswell held them in the 18th century. Boswell also served as Junior, bearing the same responsibility that Nield did for keeping the circuit's records.

His practice grew rapidly and later he entered the chambers in Liverpool of David Maxwell Fyfe, later as Lord Kilmuir to become a Tory Lord Chancellor. He and his wife Sylvia became Nield's closest friends. At the age of 42 in 1945 he made a successful application for silk, after which there began to open up



in front of him those appointments and privileges which usually come to a leader who is a sound and accurate advocate with a meticulous regard for the ethical rules of his profession.

He was elected a Master of the Bench of the Inner Temple in 1952, was Recorder of Salford, 1948-56, then Recorder and first permanent judge of the Crown Court of Manchester, 1956-60.

In 1940 he became the Conservative Member of Parliament for Chester, and represented that constituency for 16 unbroken years, during which time he sponsored as a Private Member's Bill the Adoption of Children Act, 1949. He was honorary parliamentary chairman of the Docks and Harbour Authorities Association, a member of the Home Secretary's Advisory Committee on the Treatment of Offenders, a member of the Magistrates' Rules Committee, and vice-president of the National Chamber of Trade and the Graduate Teachers' Association.

In 1938, anticipating as others did the outbreak of war, he had joined the Officers Emergency Reserve, being commissioned into a captain's rank in 1940. In 1941 he served as a major at GHQ MEF, later being on the HQ staffs of East

Africa Force, Abyssinia, Palestine and Syria.

In 1942 he was president of the Palestine Military Courts in Jerusalem, and in 1943 served on HQ staffs in Persia and Iraq as a lieutenant-colonel. He was mentioned in dispatches when serving as Deputy Judge Advocate-General to Middle Eastern Forces. At the time of D-Day, and throughout the advance through France, Belgium, The Netherlands and Germany, he was on the HQ staff of the Second Army.

Halfway through his time on the High Court bench he wrote an entertaining book, *Farewell to the Assizes* (1972) in which he described the changes effected by the Courts Act 1971 in the system of trial by the High Court at Assizes which had existed since the Assize of Clarendon in 1166. The book, he declared in a graceful dedication to her, was written at the instigation of his sister Beryl. (Between brother and sister, there was, as all their friends realised, an unusually close affinity.)

He was extremely proud of his distinction in having sat in all the assize towns, and liked to recount how it had taken him ten years to get to Bury St Edmunds and complete his "full house".

A keen Anglican, he was a member of the Church Assembly Legal Board (1952-56), of the special committee under the Reorganisation Areas measure for the Province of York, and Chancellor of the diocese of Liverpool, 1948-56.

Nield became a JP of the County Palatine of Lancaster in 1956, DL for the County of Chester in 1962, and Freeman of the City of London in 1963. He was appointed MBE (m) in 1943 and advanced to CBE in 1956. But perhaps the mark of recognition which gave him the greatest delight was when he became Treasurer of the Inner Temple in 1977.

His last years were spent at the King Edward VII Convalescent Home for Officers at Osborne House in the Isle of Wight. He was unmarried.

EDDIE HARRIS

Eddie Harris, jazz saxophonist and composer, died in Los Angeles on November 5 aged 60. He was born in Chicago on October 20, 1936.



COMMERCIAL success came early to Eddie Harris, when at the age of 25, within a few months of his release from military service, he produced an album based on the theme from Otto Preminger's film *Exodus*. The disc, *Exodus Into Jazz*, sold more than two million copies, and in its wake Harris produced six further albums, paving the way to a successful recording contract with Atlantic during the 1960s and 1970s. This cemented his position in the public imagination as a pure-toned jazz saxophonist who pioneered the electrification of his instrument and successfully created a style of jazz-funk that has since been widely imitated.

Yet Harris had too restless a creative imagination and too inventive a personality to settle for a single style of music. He maintained parallel careers as a conventional tenor saxophonist (touring until recently with a quartet and playing small jazz clubs); as the inventor of a range of hybrid electronic and acoustic instruments; and as a composer of distinction.

To modern ears, his pioneering efforts with the Variatone (a device which processed the sound of the saxophone and allowed Harris to play in octaves with himself) are laughably unsophisticated. But in the late 1960s he was at the cutting edge of technology, and pieces like his *Listen Here* from *The Electrifying Eddie Harris* album, recorded in 1967, reveal a beautifully crafted electric sax solo over a gentle but persistent funk rhythm. His other experiments were more eccentric and included an electronic rhythm box and various brass instruments with reed mouthpieces (and vice versa), none of which caught on.

Harris grew up in Chicago, where he attended the Du

Sable High School, and led his own groups from an early age. Herbie Hancock, four years younger than Harris and still at high school, played in one of these. After gaining experience with the saxophonist Gene Ammons and in a US Army orchestra, Harris returned to Chicago to work as a professional musician.

He composed much that he recorded, and *Freedom Jazz Dance* from a record called *In the Sound* was orchestrated by Gil Evans for a Californian big band in 1966. Later the same year, as a result, Evans's long-term associate Miles Davis recorded the piece with his quintet for the *Miles Smiles* album, establishing Harris as the composer of one of the most enduring standards in modern jazz.

Jazz purists derided Harris for his electronic experiments and for a commercially successful partnership with the pianist Les McCann, which gave him his second million-seller in 1969. Despite his long-term affiliations with creative Chicago musicians such as Muihal Richard Abrams, Harris was criticised for having a "white" tone. "I play in

tune and hit my notes right on the head and phrase them properly. Is that what you call white?" he once protested.

His live performances and recordings were so varied that critics seldom agreed on his virtues, although all agreed that he had virtues. When he gave up his funk band because "I was losing all my jazz fans from the Sixties", Harris discovered that he had lost both of his audiences. "I began to see people following my footsteps," he wrote. "It took Miles Davis till 1980 to go funk, meanwhile I'm back straight ahead, starring."

Through hard work and a series of commendable latter-day albums, Harris staved off starvation. London audiences were treated to a visit from him in 1994 when he was reunited with Les McCann. Harris defended his idiosyncratic career, recalling that he had built it on the advice of Billie Holiday whom he knew while she was in decline: "No matter how good you sound, somebody's going to dislike you. No matter how bad you sound, somebody's going to like it. It's what you like that counts."

EDMUND CASWELL

Edmund Caswell, artist, died of cancer, aged 58. He was born on August 12, 1938.

EDMUND CASWELL could have left no more fitting memorial than the 72ft Peter Pan mural at Great Ormond Street Hospital for Children. Nothing he painted reflected more his warmth and ebullience. He was in his forties when he trained at Hornsey Art School as a painter, and in his final year began the mural that influenced so much of his work. Seven years later, after long building delays, he worked through the night for months to complete it in time to celebrate the passing of the Bill in 1968 which restored the Peter Pan royalties to the hospital for ever.

He was ever the perfectionist, never accepting that he

had finished a work to his satisfaction, always ready to return to it for a fresh look. It was characteristic of him that he returned to Great Ormond Street three years ago and spent seven weeks freshening the colours of his mural in readiness for the reopening of the hospital by the Princess of Wales.

Caswell, great grandson of a Scottish doctor who went to India in the last century, spent his first seven years in Bangalore before the family came to England. At 13 he received a scholarship to Coventry School of Art, but his love of horses took him to agricultural college in Oxford, a degree in animal husbandry and an early career in farming, before he finally studied fine arts.

From 1950, when his wife Henry King organised the celebrations marking Dundee's 800th anniversary, he

lived and worked in Scotland, devoting much of the last two years to Robert Burns. In January this year his 13 pictures based on Tam o' Shanter were exhibited at the Houses of Parliament and one of his drawings was featured in a Burns exhibition at the Royal Museum of Scotland.

His Victorian-style picture book on Peter Pan was launched at Kilmuir, J.M. Barrie's birthplace. It has sold more than 80,000 copies and has been translated into five languages. The paintings which illustrated the book were shown at the Museum of Childhood in Edinburgh before being presented to Kilmuir two years ago.

Caswell's last painting was of Christ and Mary Magdalene for St Mary Magdalene's Church in Dundee. He is survived by his wife and her four children.



Georges Duby, French historian, died at his home in Aix-en-Provence on December 2 aged 77. He was born in Paris on October 7, 1919.

"WHAT is historical discourse if not the expression of the historian's personal reaction when confronted with the scattered vestiges of his emotion, or rather his dream? For, inevitably, he must dream. Be rigorous, but dream."

Those far from dry-as-dust words, delivered in an interview with *Le Monde* nearly four years ago, may help to explain the remarkable popularity, both in France and beyond, of the great medievalist Georges Duby. Although there were many contrasts between them — not least in the fields they covered — he may perhaps be compared to A.J.P. Taylor in his ability to inspire enthusiasm for history in the non-specialist.

Duby nevertheless was the product of his own background. He was an eminent, if not typical, upholder of a highly influential French tradition which sought to extend the scope of historical analysis from politics and great events to social structures and mentalities. "Social history," he wrote, "is the whole of history." But he also had a unique gift for inhabiting and making real the texture of the periods he evoked.

That talent for vivid evocation, together with a shrewd understanding of modern methods of publicity, helped to give his work unusually broad appeal. A fine and prolific writer, in France he did more than almost anyone else to stimulate popular interest in history. He was a familiar

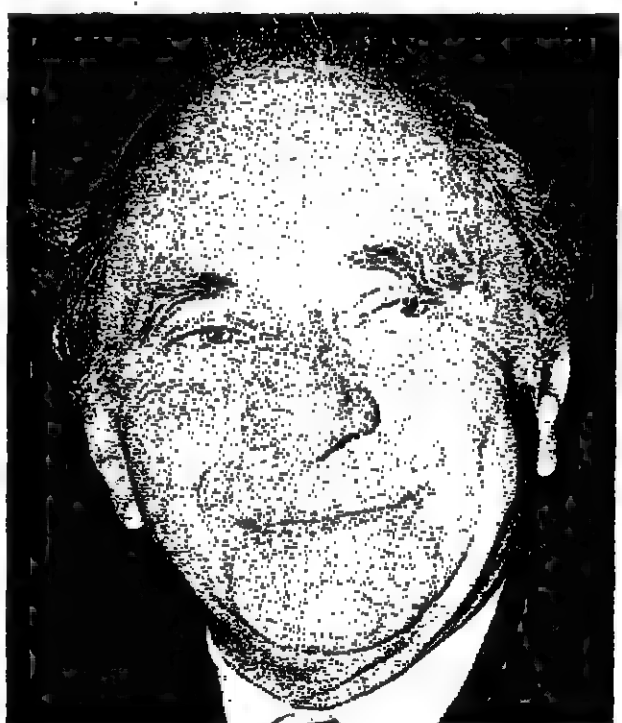
figure on radio and television, and his books — faridous and accomplished works of scholarship though they are — were as likely to be found on coffee tables as on library shelves. Translations carried his reputation far beyond France.

Georges Michel Claude Duby was born in Paris, the son of a craftsman who specialised in cleaning and dyeing feathers. He spent his school years in Macon, and preferred the nearby university of Lyons to the highly regarded institutions of the capital. It was as a student there that he switched from geography to history and discovered the work of Lucien Febvre, Marc Bloch and the other historians grouped around the *Journal Annales*.

Both his own training and the ideas of the *Annales* informed his view that "a society, like a landscape, is a system whose structure and development is determined by a multiplicity of factors, [and] that the relations between these factors are not those of cause and effect but of correlations and interference." He wanted, he said, to put himself "inside the skin of the men and women of the Middle Ages".

In 1949 he had completed his doctoral thesis on medieval society in southern Burgundy and was made a junior fellow at Lyons. In 1951, after a brief professorship in Besancon, he moved on to the University of Aix-en-Provence. He would continue to live near by for the rest of his life, even after taking up the chair of history at the Collège de France in Paris from 1970 to 1992, where his lectures drew large and often fashionable crowds.

GEORGES DUBY



Among his many French and international honours, he was elected to the Académie Française in June 1987, becoming its first historian member since Fernand Braudel, and was appointed a Commander of the Legion of Honour. He was an associate member of the British Academy.

After an erudite and wide-ranging study of *Rural Economy and Country Life in the Medieval West* (Paris, 1962; London 1968), Duby moved on to a three-volume history of medieval art which included what remains one of his best-known books, *L'Europe des cathédrales*. This was to grow into *Le Temps des cathédrales* (The Age of the Cathedrals: Art and Society 980-1420, 1976), which was adapted for French television with great success.

Art had always been one of Duby's chief interests. A painter himself (and a good friend of the artist Pierre Soulages), he excelled at drawing out the historical implications of form. He was also one of the first historians to take a close interest in the cultural possibilities of the mass media, and was the chairman of France's new "cultural" channel, La Sept (now Arte), in the late 1980s.

Over the years, Duby's range continued to broaden. He had always excelled at bringing his arguments to life with a telling anecdote or a vividly recounted incident.

Art had always been one of Duby's chief interests. A painter himself (and a good friend of the artist Pierre Soulages), he excelled at drawing out the historical implications of form. He was also one of the first historians to take a close interest in the cultural possibilities of the mass media, and was the chairman of France's new "cultural" channel, La Sept (now Arte), in the late 1980s.

Over the years, Duby's range continued to broaden. He had always excelled at bringing his arguments to life with a telling anecdote or a vividly recounted incident.

Over the years, Duby's range continued to broaden. He had always excelled at bringing his arguments to life with a telling anecdote or a vividly recounted incident.

Over the years, Duby's range continued to broaden. He had always excelled at bringing his arguments to life with a telling anecdote or a vividly recounted incident.

and he eventually channelled those narrative skills into the study of precisely those famous "historic events" which he had once done so much to play down in favour of complex, long-term developments.

This change of approach resulted in what many French historians consider his finest book, *Le dimanche de Bouvines* (1973; translated into English as *The Legend of Bouvines*, 1990), an account — part narrative, part analysis — of the crucial battle in July 1214 that strengthened the French monarchy against the Holy Roman Empire.

In addition to his own copious production (some thirty books), Duby was also an active editor, working on histories of rural France, two histories of France (one with Emmanuel Le Roy Ladurie), and a *History of Private Life*.

Another ambitious project, undertaken with Michelle Perrot, and with the encouragement of his wife Andrée, herself an historian, was the multivolume *Histoire des Femmes*. As Duby's fellow historian Jacques Le Goff observed, "there was something almost tragic for him in the silence of history about women, and the silence of women in history." His last books were attempts to conjure up the substance of these "elusive existences".

To that task, as ever, he brought the combination of rigour and sympathy, served by a fine prose style, that has inspired French commentators to couple his name with that of the great 19th-century historian Michelet.

He is survived by his wife, whom he married in 1942, and by their son and two daughters.

Church news

Appointments
The Rev Nigel Anstey, Team Vicar, St Francis and St Clare, Ipswich (St Edmundsbury and Ipswich); to be Team Vicar, St Luke, Walthamstow (Chelmsford).
The Rev Ian Beckwith, Curate (NSM), Wallingford; Team Ministry: to be also LNSM Training Officer for the Berkshire Archdeaconry (Oxford).
Canon Christopher Bryant, Rector, Devises St John and St Mary; to be Master, St Nicholas Hospital, Salisbury (Salisbury).
The Ven Michael Bucks, Chaplain of the Fleet and Director-General, Naval Chaplaincy Services; to be Team Rector, Shaston Team Ministry (Salisbury).
The Rev Madeline Butman, Curate, Brentford; to be Vicar, St Saviour w St Mary, Cobbold Road (London).
The Rev Derek Burden, Vicar, Wokingham St Sebastian; to be

Priest-in-charge, Wooburn (Oxford). The Rev Richard Capper, Vicar, St Faith's, Great Crosby and Area Dean of Bootle (Liverpool); to be Residentiary Canon of Wakefield Cathedral (Wakefield).
The Rev Philip Clements, Rector, Swinford w Cathorpe, Shawell and Stanford; to be also Priest-in-charge, North w South Kilworth and Misterton (Leicester).
The Rev Timothy Codling, Assistant Curate, St Mary the Virgin, North Shorebury; to be Vicar, St John the Baptist, Tilbury Docks (Chelmsford).
The Rev Shaun Conlon, Assistant Curate, St Mary and St Margaret, Castle Bromwich (Birmingham); to be Assistant Curate, Hockliff (St Albans).
The Rev Linda Currell, Assistant Curate, St Mark's, Broadwater Down, Tunbridge Wells (Rochester); to be Team Vicar, St Stephen's, Walthamstow, in the Team Ministry of St Mary w St Stephen, Walthamstow, and Chaplain to Walthamstow YMCA (Chelmsford).
The Rev Julian Davey, formerly Priest-in-charge, The Winterbourne and Compton Valence; to be Team Vicar, Marshwood Vale Team Ministry (Salisbury).
The Rev Sally Davies, Curate, St Paul's, East Molesey (Guildford); to be Senior Curate, Chalfont St Peter, w special responsibility for All Saints, Oval Way (Oxford).
The Rev Victor Dickinson, Vicar, The Ascension, Kenton (Newcastle); to be Vicar, Ford and Ehal and Lowick and Kyloc w Ancoft, same diocese.
The Rev Geoffrey Driver,

Vicar, St Paul's, Glasshoughton; to be full-time Hospital Chaplain for the Pontefract Hospitals NHS Trust (Wakefield).
The Rev Jonathan Foster, Chaplain, Chantilly St Peter, France (Europe); to be Vicar, Branksome St Clement (Salisbury).
Canon Murray Haig, Team Rector, Cramlington; to be Priest-in-charge, Alnwick (Newcastle).
The Right Rev Peter Hall, formerly Area Bishop of Woolwich (Southwark); to be Honorary Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Birmingham.
The Rev Allister Heagerty, Chaplain to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst; to be Team Vicar, Kingswood (Bristol).
The Rev David Humphrey, Assistant Curate, Thundersley (Chelmsford); to be Vicar, Standon, St Albans (St Albans).

SAVOY THEATRE.

The Gondoliers, or *The King of Barataria*, the new opera by Mr Gilbert and Sir Arthur Sullivan, was received on Saturday night with such hearty and unanimous approbation as to make it easy to augur that it will be long before the next of the series is required. If a position among the best of the joint authors' productions be ultimately accorded to the new work, as will probably be the case, it will be due less to any remarkable originality or interest in the plot than to the dialogue, which is in Mr. Gilbert's very best style, and the bright and sparkling music, some of which is quite irresistible in its melodious gaiety, while all is, as usual, spontaneous, refined, and thoroughly characteristic of the composer.

The facts of the story appear to be as follows (we undertake their relation with extreme diffidence): The infant son of the King of Barataria, after being contracted in marriage to the daughter of a Castilian hidalgo, is "changed at

ON THIS DAY

December 9, 1889

This review occupied more than a column and a half with occasional extracts from the libretto, totalling more than 1,700 words, tightly printed.

nurse" for the son of his foster-mother, who at the time when the action of the piece takes place (1750) has become the wife of "a highly respectable and old-established brigand, who carries on an extensive practice in the mountains around Cordova." ... The author has constructed a libretto which even he has rarely surpassed in whimsical absurdity. Mr Gilbert is a privileged person, and none but the most capacious of critics will resent his allowing the Spanish Inquisitor, a functionary who rejoices in

the name of Don Alhambra del Bolero (Mr. W. H. Denny), to reside, to all appearances permanently, in the Ducal Palace at Venice, and there to receive the state visit of an impoverished nobleman, the Duke of Plaza-Toro (Mr. F. Wyatt), who arrives with his Duchess (Miss Brandram), their daughter Casilda (Miss Decima Moore), who will be recognized as Queen of Barataria as soon as the identity of that Monarch is established. The entry of these august personages in their pompous but shabby clothes, and the quarter they sing, start the hilarity of the piece, which never flags from that moment ... The two scenes are a marvel of stage adaptation, the first representing no less a space than the Piazzetta at Venice. The second, a very pretty scene of Moorish character, does not commit itself to any rash statements concerning the position of Barataria on the map. It is needless to say that with Sir Arthur Sullivan directing affairs the performance went without a hitch, and that the reception could not have been more cordial.

NEWS

I will not be bullied, says Major

John Major told Conservative sceptics and mavericks yesterday that he would not be held to ransom on European or constituency issues even if it meant an early general election that could result in power being handed to a pro-European Labour leadership.

The Prime Minister issued a defiant defence of his wait-and-see policy on the single currency, telling critics that Britain needed to be in the negotiations to prevent other countries from "cheating" on the entry conditions. Page 1

Stroke of luck for art student

Peri Kemal-Orek, 27, a Turkish Cypriot art student living in London, discovered she had acquired a Frank Auerbach painting for a mere £30. A similar work by the same artist was valued last year at more than 300 times that amount. Page 1

Heathrow chaos

Heathrow airport was thrown into chaos after the undercarriage of a twin engine commuter plane collapsed on landing, blocking a runway. More than 150 flights were delayed and thousands of passengers were held up throughout Europe. Page 3

Fiancée held

Tracey Andrews, 27, the fiancée of the alleged "road rage" victim Lee Harvey, was under police guard in hospital after being arrested in connection with his stabbing on an isolated country road. Page 3

Laughing until it hurts

Pantomimes are bad for performers' health and can lead to hernias and other injuries, say doctors. Page 5

Shopping spree

Shops were counting record takings after Britain went on the biggest pre-Christmas shopping spree in almost a decade. Page 6

Anglicans ahead

Sunday attendance at the Church of England is set to overtake that of the Roman Catholic Church for the first time in living memory. Figures for England and Wales suggest that the Anglicans will now ahead by about 1,000. Page 7

Ninth food death

A ninth pensioner has died in Scotland's food poisoning epidemic which is now affecting 386 people. Page 7

Rich pickings without cooking books

Britain's leading chefs are looking forward to becoming multi-millionaires. In a nation apparently obsessed with food, yet increasingly incapable of cooking it, the chef is king, and coining it in. Media exposure enjoyed by chefs is now reaching ridiculous proportions, with some 30 cookery programmes regularly on terrestrial television alone. Page 5

Ratty in peril

The water vole — which found fame as Ratty in *The Wind in the Willows* — is one of 600 species of flora and fauna in danger of disappearing from the countryside. Page 8

Falklands fears

Falkland islanders celebrating the anniversary of a 1914 British Naval victory are wondering whether they will have to fight a new battle with a British Labour government. Page 9

Welfare cut

President Clinton has claimed credit for a fall of 2.1 million in the number of people receiving welfare since he took office four years ago, in a move which will reignite controversy over welfare reforms. Page 10

Human bones traded

The people of Afghanistan are so desperate under Taliban rule they are selling human bones in the alleys of Kabul. Page 11

UN battle

Four African candidates have been named by their countries to succeed Boutros Boutros Ghali as Secretary General of the United Nations. Page 12

Belgrade stand-off

Serbian opposition groups prepared for fresh confrontations after the supreme court rejected claims that President Milosevic rigged local elections. Page 13



A girl feeds doves of peace at Yasukuni Shrine in Tokyo at the weekend on the 55th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor

Bank pay-out

Creditors of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International, which collapsed in 1991 with debts of \$10 billion, will see their first compensation payments. They are due to get about a quarter of their losses back initially. Page 18

Social cost

The chairman of America's Federal Reserve Bank says the US social security system is heading for bankruptcy if taxes are not raised or benefits cut. Page 16

Day job

Tiger Woods, the most promising young golfer for decades, is set to take a financial stake in Planet Hollywood. Page 18

Quick pint

Plans to introduce a technique that allows lager to be created within hours have failed to find favour. Page 18

Bragg writes

Too much to the have-nots: Melvyn Bragg on why the National Lottery handouts have dented Mrs Bottomley's popularity. Page 18

Opera high

Plácido Domingo gives a one-off performance as Siegmund in *Walküre*, in a fundraising gala for Covent Garden that provided one of the most thrilling evenings of them all. Page 19

Rock on

Against all the odds, The Who revive their 1973 masterpiece *Quadrophonia* live at Earls Court, proving there is plenty of life left in these rock dinosaurs. Page 19

Pop favourite

Beck Hansen, the American singer-songwriter, even the stars love to love. Page 19

Bunny man

With his serious swinging days behind him, *Playboy* founder Hugh Hefner now wants his life to be seen as a metaphor of our times. Page 15

Social animal

Stylishness is more likely to be learnt or foisted on us than inbred. Page 16

Jeffrey Bernard

"Some of the very best parties are accidental and are borne of good friends simply meeting for a drink." Page 17

Noah's flood

The American geologists who think they can prove the biblical flood took place. Page 14

Nigel Hawkes

People with unhappy marriages or who are at loggerheads with their boss are more likely to catch colds. Page 14

IN THE TIMES

ARTS

The absorbing world of Howard Hodgkin goes on show at the Hayward Gallery

LAW

Should Britain incorporate the European Convention on Human Rights?

Football

West Ham staged a remarkable comeback, scoring twice in the last 12 minutes, to draw 2-2 with Manchester United. Page 25

Cricket

England began the long climb back towards respectability with a 59-run victory over Matabeleland, the first win in four matches on the tour of Zimbabwe. Page 27

Rugby union

Freed from the constraints imposed by internationals, the Australians showed that they were capable of playing with great freedom as well as discipline in their comfortable victory over the Barbarians. Page 35

Tennis

Tim Henman has gained more than just money from his run to the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup in Munich. Although he was beaten by Boris Becker, Henman showed he is more than capable of competing with the game's leading players. Page 26

Football

Bobby Robson, the former England manager now in charge of Barcelona, suffered the first significant setback of his reign when his team were beaten 2-0 by Real Madrid. Page 31

Winning numbers

6, 13, 17, 22, 42, 47. Bonus: 36. Four people shared the £8.9 million jackpot with £2,239,449 each; 43, with five balls plus the bonus, each won £64,098; £526 had five, getting £1,128; £2,053 matched four, getting £46; 1,426,085 with three, won £10.

Joining the single currency

Edward VIII — folly or treason? Gibraltar's sovereignty. Page 21

LIVINGS

Preview

Startling footage of the effects of shell shock on British soldiers is shown publicly for the first time. 1914-18: *Mutiny* (BBC2 7pm). Review: Matthew Bond loses count of Moll Flanders's vital statistics. Page 47

Dangerous expansion

Western governments may once have believed that Nato enlargement would be a force for European stability. There is barely a politician, let alone a senior military commander, who believes that now. Page 21

Questions unanswered

The Prime Minister's statements on Europe were scattered with inconsistencies. He seems unable to see that the single currency involves matters of principle, as well as calculations about temporary economic interests. Page 21

Heroes with hernias

A new form of industrial injury: pantomime hernia. Page 21

MATTHEW PARRIS

The Tory tribe cannot come to terms with what it did to Margaret Thatcher. There is an unwitting yearning to be purged for her murder. Loss of their first general election without her would have been a fit punishment, and the party wanted and expected it. Page 20

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Kenneth Clarke's threat to resign has made it difficult for John Major to make public the decision to stay out of a single currency, which in substance he has already taken. Page 20

PETER RIDDELL

Elections are seldom decided by the immediate campaigns. Many voters, between a fifth and a quarter, say they decide on their choice during the campaign, but this does not mean they decide because of the campaign. Page 20

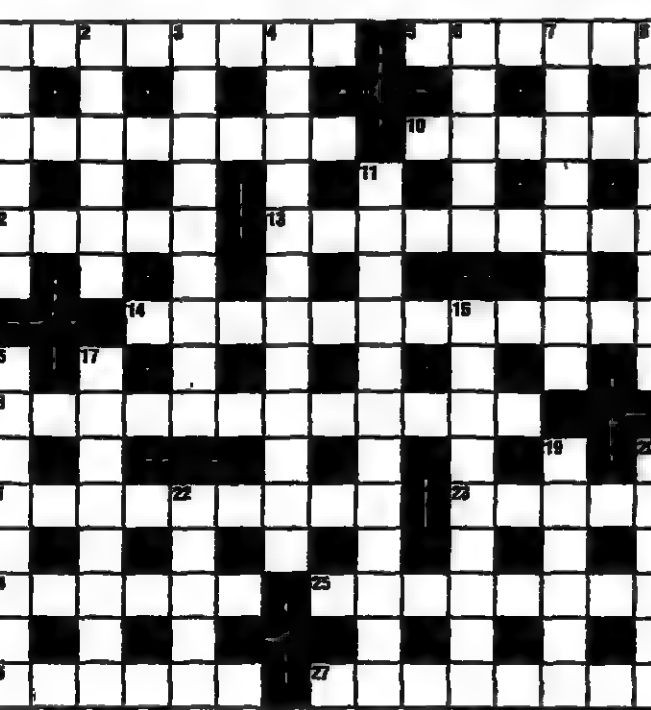
Sir Basil Nield

former High Court judge and Conservative MP; Georges Duby, French historian; Edmund Caswell, painter; Eddie Harris, jazz saxophonist. Page 23

Joining the single currency

Edward VIII — folly or treason? Gibraltar's sovereignty. Page 21

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,346



- ACROSS
- 1 Policeman, gives information, runs in tiled woman (8).
 - 2 Not well stored (4,2).
 - 3 It restricts girl in navy, creating annoyance (8).
 - 4 Rich cake consumed in state university (6).
 - 5 Phlegmatic type encountered in trips to Iceland (5).
 - 6 Born leader captures every piece of land vital to invasion (9).
 - 7 Well-established aspiration to keep bear? (4-8).
 - 8 My catch? Eel or otherwise genuine article (3,4,5).
 - 9 Stipulation in important late stage of contest (9).
 - 10 A waste of robbers, waves occurring naturally here? (5).
 - 11 Fate pursuing old church cat (6).
 - 12 Focusing on target drill (8).
- DOWN
- 1 Undercooked ends of some young salmon? (6).
 - 2 After noon, a river bank is not open (6).
 - 3 Without permission, cook ate rich vegetable (9).
 - 4 Notice bishop eyeing first of girls entering? Astonishing! (4-8).
 - 5 A western tree overwhelmed by flood water (5).
 - 6 Assembly overturned call concerning fare regulation (5).
 - 7 Husband leaving dog in attendant's charge (8).
 - 8 Relating to joints — in a layer of wood, especially (12).
 - 9 The coinage is new — we have his word for it (9).
 - 10 It sheds light on passages with drums at the end (8).
 - 11 Reportedly appear minus such stockings? (8).
 - 12 One who refuses to accept a measure of silk (6).
 - 13 Puzzle presented by English graduate holding up drink (6).
 - 14 Not a sinking fund — it's for starting business (5).

ABERLOUR

The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,345 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

Times Two Crossword, page 48

Latest Mail and Weather conditions

UK Weather: All regions: 0336 444 910
UK News: All regions: 0336 401 410
Leads: 0336 401 745
H25 and L25: 0336 401 747
National News: 0336 401 748
Commercial Europe: 0336 401 910
Channel crossing: 0336 401 388
Moving to Heathrow & Gatwick airports: 0336 407 388

Weather by Fax

Del 0336 followed by area number from your fax:
West Country: 416 334 Scotland: 416 340
Wales: 416 335 N Ireland: 416 341
Midlands: 416 336 London: 416 342
East Anglia: 416 337 National Seafile: 416 343
N East: 416 339 Weather pages: 416 397
Phrases: Please refer to the back of the page

World City Weather

153 destinations world wide
by Phone dial: 0336 411210
by Fax (index page): 0336 416233

Motoring

Europe Country by Country: 0336 401 882
European fuel costs: 0336 401 886
French Motorways: 0336 401 887
Support information: 0336 401 888
Chapman's Parts: 0336 401 409
Le Shuttle: 0336 401 895

AA car reports by fax

new and used car reports from the AA members of 195 cars
you may have to fax to poll results mode
AA Development Ltd.
Mail: Road Traffic Unit, Basingstoke, Hants RG24 0AA
Cars are charged at 45p per minute plus VAT.
5p per minute at all other times.

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.54 am Sun sets: 3.52 pm
Moon sets: 3.27 pm Moon rises: 6.00 am
New moon tomorrow
London 3.52 pm to 7.55 am
Bristol 4.02 pm to 8.05 am
Edinburgh 3.39 pm to 8.33 am
Manchester 3.50 pm to 8.14 am
Penzance 4.20 pm to 8.10 am

General: England and Wales

should stay mostly dry but with widespread mist and fog, slow to clear from many central parts. The west and north will have the best of any brighter breaks, though the southeast may brighten for a time before fog returns in the evening. Temperatures will be a little below normal but it will be cold where fog lingers.

Scotland and Northern Ireland

will be cloudy with patchy light rain which is expected to peter out later. Sheltered central and eastern parts should see some brightness. The wind will slowly moderate and it will remain mild.

London, SE England, E Anglia

Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N. and S. and foggy, the fog slow to lift in many places. Wind light and variable. Max 7C (45F), colder where fog lingers.

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District

lake of lakes any fog lifting but cloudy except the west. Wind southerly, light to moderate. Max 7C (45F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow

cloudy with occasional light rain later. Wind south or southwesterly, moderate. Max 10C (50F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland

occasional rain clearing and becoming brighter. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh. Mild, max 10C (50F).

Outlook: the north will be cloudy but

moderately dry, fog dispersing in the south.

General: England and Wales

should stay mostly dry but with widespread mist and fog, slow to clear from many central parts. The west and north will have the best of any brighter breaks, though the southeast may brighten for a time before fog returns in the evening. Temperatures will be a little below normal but it will be cold where fog lingers.

Scotland and Northern Ireland

will be cloudy with patchy light rain which is expected to peter out later. Sheltered central and eastern parts should see some brightness. The wind will slowly moderate and it will remain mild.

London, SE England, E Anglia

Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N. and S. and foggy, the fog slow to lift in many places. Wind light and variable. Max 7C (45F), colder where fog lingers.

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District

lake of lakes any fog lifting but cloudy except the west. Wind southerly, light to moderate. Max 7C (45F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow

cloudy with occasional light rain later. Wind south or southwesterly, moderate. Max 10C (50F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland

occasional rain clearing and becoming brighter. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh. Mild, max 10C (50F).

Outlook: the north will be cloudy but

moderately dry, fog dispersing in the south.

General: England and Wales

should stay mostly dry but with widespread mist and fog, slow to clear from many central parts. The west and north will have the best of any brighter breaks, though the southeast may brighten for a time before fog returns in the evening. Temperatures will be a little below normal but it will be cold where fog lingers.

Scotland and Northern Ireland

will be cloudy with patchy light rain which is expected to peter out later. Sheltered central and eastern parts should see some brightness. The wind will slowly moderate and it will remain mild.

London, SE England, E Anglia

Central S England, E Midlands, E England, W Midlands, Central N. and S. and foggy, the fog slow to lift in many places. Wind light and variable. Max 7C (45F), colder where fog lingers.

Channel Isles, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District

lake of lakes any fog lifting but cloudy except the west. Wind southerly, light to moderate. Max 7C (45F).

NE England, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, SW Scotland, Glasgow

cloudy with occasional light rain later. Wind south or southwesterly, moderate. Max 10C (50F).

Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney, Shetland, N Ireland

occasional rain clearing and becoming brighter. Wind southwesterly, moderate to fresh. Mild, max 10C (50F).

Outlook: the north will be cloudy but

moderately dry, fog dispersing in the south.

Sunny

Sunny intervals

Cloudy

Drizzle

Overcast

Rain

Sunny showers

Sleet and sunny showers

Lightning

Hail

Snow

Temperature (Celsius)

Wind speed (mph) and direction

Sea conditions

Changes to the chart below from noon: low H will move east and S; low L and M will sink

southwards and deepen; High G and H will merge and intensify over Greenland; high B will persist

WARM FRONT

COLD FRONT

Occluded front

WIND

PRESSURE

MOON

CLOUDS

PRECIPITATION

HAIL

THUNDER

FOG

MIST

SMOG

ICE

RAINFALL

WIND CHILL

RELATIVE HUMIDITY

DEW POINT

HEAT INDEX

ULTRAVIOLET INDEX

AIR QUALITY INDEX

WATER QUALITY INDEX

SOIL MOISTURE INDEX

VEGETATION INDEX

ANIMAL INDEX

PLANT INDEX

CLIMATE INDEX

WEATHER INDEX

TODAY IN THE TIMES

REAL TROUBLE FOR ROBSON
Barcelona brought to earth in Madrid
PAGE 31

THE ICEMEN COMETH
Nottingham triumph
PAGE 33

HOMETOWN HERO
Becker proves too strong for all-comers
PAGE 26

HIT THE ROAD BRIAN
Lara faces the music in Sydney PAGE 27

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY DECEMBER 9 1996

UNITED LOSE TWO POINTS AS SCHMEICHEL LOSES HIS HEAD

Dicks delivers great hammer blow

West Ham United 2
Manchester United 2

By ROE HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE QUEST for the European Cup continues to be a considerable weight around Manchester United's neck, affecting their ability to concentrate on the FA Cup Premier League, to produce consistent performances that might threaten Arsenal, Liverpool, Newcastle United and, bless them, Wimbledon.

At Upton Park yesterday, they allowed West Ham United to embarrass them for imagination, movement and ideas. Yet, fortuitously — to use the word of admission from Alex Ferguson, the manager — United went two up and then, thinking the task was finished, they allowed West Ham to come back with two goals in 90 seconds, and force Schmeichel to save the game for United in the dying moments.

Harry Redknapp, the West Ham manager, was relieved to have won a point. Ferguson was simply livid. He accepted his team's luck and described his side's performance, very accurately, as "very poor, very ragged, tired". However, when the United manager abruptly walked out of the press conference, I

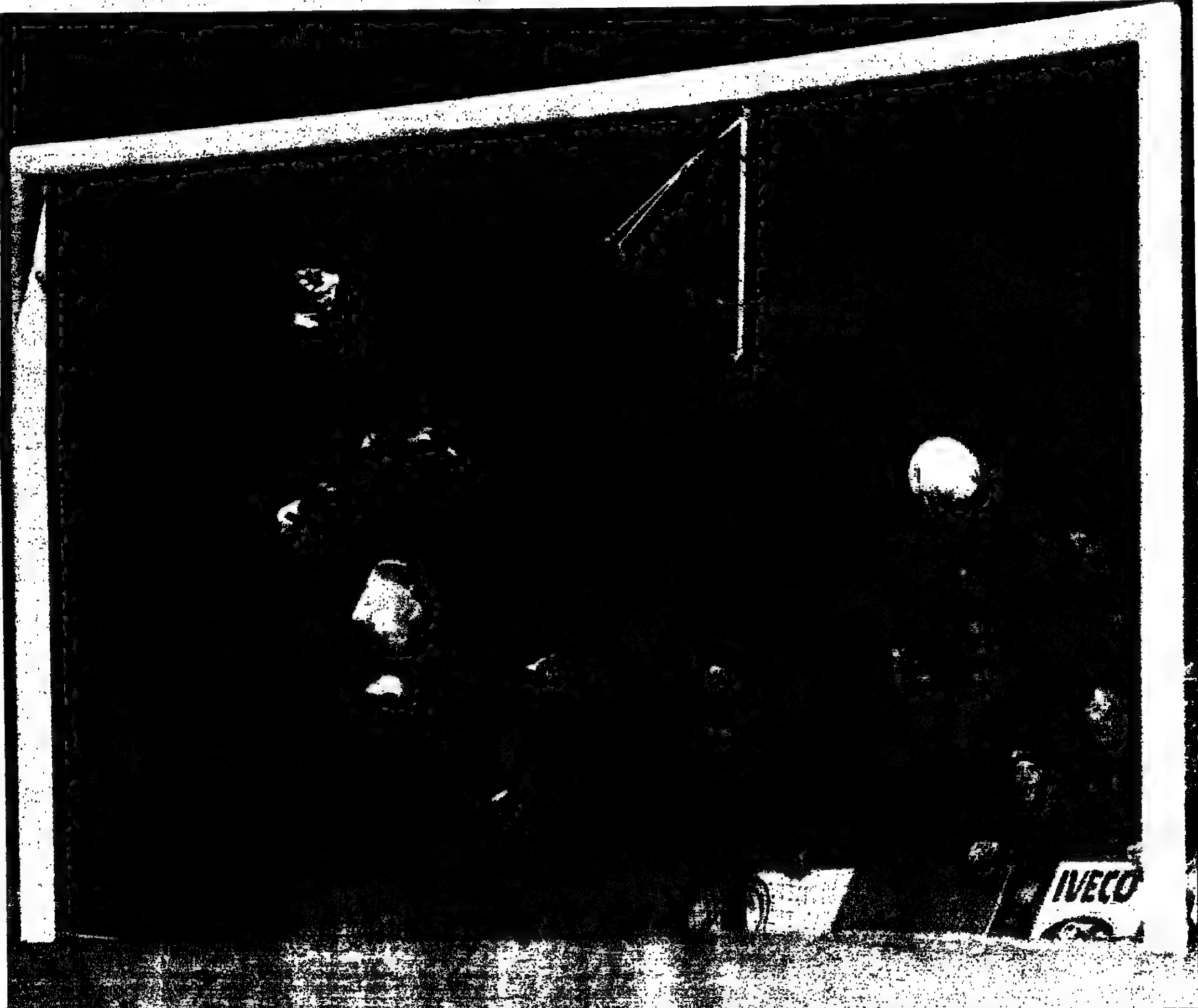
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	17	10	5	2	34	18	35
Wimbledon	16	9	4	3	29	17	31
Liverpool	16	9	4	3	26	14	31
Aston Villa	17	9	3	5	22	15	30
Newcastle	15	9	2	4	25	17	29
Man Utd	16	7	6	3	31	24	27
Chelsea	16	6	7	3	25	23	25

suspect his sensitive mood was as much to do with seeing that his reserves are thin, that Poborsky, purchased for more than £3 million, will probably never have the physical commitment — let us call it courage — to match his tricky feet.

It was just after the half-hour that the Czech Republic international, seeing Dicks, that whole-hearted West Ham captain, coming towards him, showed his colours. The yellow card had been issued for something as dubious as an involuntary handball earlier on, and when an international performer jumps out of the way at more than a yard distance from man and ball, one wonders about a disreputable charge.

Seriously, this game asked real questions of Manchester United's Premiership pedigree. If United had produced something of a waltz against Rapid Vienna in midweek, this was more of a clog-dance, and Ferguson was justified in suggesting that Beckham, though he was to score a mercurial goal, is showing signs of physical fatigue.

There are foreign elements in the English game who need, drastically, to prove their consistency and commitment. Dumitrescu is certainly one. Yet in the 22nd minute, he transcended the skill on offer and showed that United were there for the beating. He darted into the box, eluding Pallister and drove in a low shot that skimmed beyond the far post. When Dumitrescu approached from the left, his trickery brought a handball in the area from McClair. Peter Jones, the referee, generously concluded that it was ball-to-hand, and gave McClair a huge benefit of the



Schmeichel, the United goalkeeper, fails to stop Dicks's fearsomely struck penalty that earned West Ham a point at Upton Park yesterday. Photograph: Marc Aspland

doubt. In another way, Jones, was as lenient with Bilic. The Croatia defender, who possibly should not have started the game as he was unwell, fouled Giggs in the nineteenth minute, and committed a vicious late tackle on Beckham in the 31st. The card shown was yellow.

Not until the brink of half-time did United threaten and then Solskjaer was denied only by a reflex save from Miklosko. Solskjaer, United's leading goalscorer, had not scored away from Old Trafford since his transfer

from Norway. The 53rd minute changed that.

The anonymous Cantona suddenly showed his quality. Spotting that four West Ham defenders, in a line, were thinking of the offside trap, he hesitated for an instant and then produced a penetrating through ball. Solskjaer timed his run perfectly and, from 12 yards, drove the ball past Miklosko, who could only deflect its course into the net.

Dumitrescu retaliated by stepping past two United defenders, but again shot wide of the far post.

In the 75th minute, though, United surpassed what had gone before. Cantona, making his second glowing contribution, wheeled 180 degrees with the ball, bemusing Moncur. From him to Irwin, to Beckham, and back to Beckham, the ball travelled. Then England's young hope struck a shot from the edge of the penalty box, right-footed and with little back-lift, that caressed the inside of a post before nestling in the net.

All over? Redknapp and Ferguson agreed that it was but, in a

rousing reprisal, West Ham rescued the game. Raducioiu easily by-passed Johnsen, and gave Schmeichel not a ghost of a chance to prevent his right-foot shot from entering the far side of the goal. That was the 77th minute; by the 79th the game, more than deservedly, was squared. This time, Dumitrescu prompted the move with a pass down the inside-left channel. Hughes anticipated it and Schmeichel, reckless in the extreme, came out and flattened him. Schmeichel, inevitably, rallied against the penalty award; the

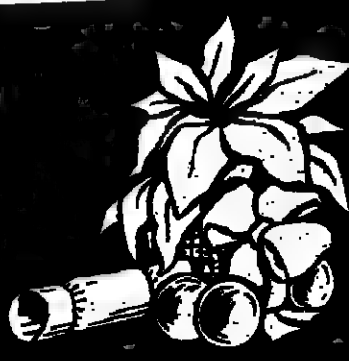
looks that Pallister gave him, the words with which Ferguson admitted where blame lay, condemned the goalkeeper's rashness. Up strode Dicks to give the ball the old West Ham 'ammer.

It was too much joy for 200 West Ham supporters to contain. They spilled, momentarily, onto the pitch, an invasion that did not come to much once Dicks had used his renowned eloquence to dispel them. On with the finale and Schmeichel saved dramatically from Hughes and from Dumitrescu.

"An absolute giveaway," Ferguson moaned afterwards. "We just can't keep on giving goals like that away."

WEST HAM (4-4-1-1): L Miklosko — M Bowen, S Blic (sub S Potts, 71min), M Rapier, J Dicks — M Hughes, J Moncur, I Budge, K Rowland (sub F Raducioiu, 65) — I Dumitrescu — I Davis.
MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — R Johnson, D May, G Pallister, D Irwin — R Potters, sub P Neville, 55), D Beckham, E Izzi, Cial, R Gags — E Cantona — O G Solskjaer. Referee: P Jones.

Liverpool suffer, page 28
Forceful Ferguson, page 29
Results and tables, page 30
Robson under threat, page 31



Deck the Hall with Boughs of Holly
(and send your Granny a poinsettia).

Send the gift of flowers this Christmas. Order direct by phone or at any florist where you see the Dove logo.



TELEFLORIST
0800 111 800

Castle besieged by Fleming's conflicting opinions

For one man, the rise and rise of Tim Henman was beginning to get just a little bit annoying. That man was Andrew Castle, anchorman of BSkyB's tennis coverage and already destined to be a far better broadcaster than he was a tennis player. That is he will be — just as soon as he stops torturing himself with dreams of what might have been.

For once on Thursday afternoon, after Henman had dispatched MaliVai Washington, Castle and his studio guest, Peter Fleming, were in agreement — British men's tennis was improving. Why had it taken so long, Castle moaned? "What's so annoying is that there are a lot of people whose talent was wasted by the mediocre help they received," Fleming was all wide-eyed innocence. "Really Andrew — and who might they be?"

All week Castle and Fleming had been going at it like Ivanisevic and Kafelnikov in the less-watched semi-final on Saturday. Were they being serious or was it all just a bit of fun at our expense? Either way it made excellent television — Castle and Fleming that is. Both are good-looking and both are impressively articulate on screen, but there the similarities end. Apart from the renaissance of British tennis, they agree about nothing.

"Well, well, well," Castle enthused after the win on Thursday — we really do have something to cheer about. Don't we, Peter? "I don't agree, Andrew. That was just another run-of-the-mill match for Tim. I hope people don't make too much of it because that's who Tim Henman has become now." All those late nights with Sue Barker (please, Wimbledon highlights only)



MATTHEW BOND
TV ACTION REPLAY

paid off as he turned to face the camera for maximum effect. "So just snap out of it. The sooner everyone realises that this guy's a player... the better." Just for a second the unflappable Castle looked a trifle flapped. Studio guests are not supposed to behave like that.

It was even worse on Saturday, after Henman had succumbed to Boris Becker and the Union Jack-waving partnership of Gerald Williams and Bill Threlfall had handed back to the studio. Castle began

again. "I think today we have discovered the limitations in Tim's game!" Fleming did not agree. "I think Tim's game was perfectly fine." He thought it was Henman's mind that needed to take a step up. Castle tried yet again. "But there's a gulf in class isn't there?" Fleming did not agree with the word "gulf". Well, what about Henman's ground strokes. Castle railed, surely they were no match for Becker's? Wrong again. "In a year's time everyone will be saying that Tim Henman's

ground strokes are better than Boris Becker's." In desperation, Castle turned to metaphor. "Henman was a whipper to Becker's rotweiler, wasn't he?"

This time Fleming's pregnant pause was too much. "Does it pain you so very much," Castle wailed, "ever to agree with me?" Fleming paused, gave it some thought and delivered his deadpan answer. "Yes, it does actually." Game and certainly first set to the American, but I look forward to battle being rejoined the next time Sky has some decent tennis to show. I fear, however, we may have to wait a while to beat a week that began with extended live coverage of the Davis Cup final and ended — at least for most people — with a British player making it to the semi-finals of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup.

In the commentary box, Williams

and Threlfall lent their old BBC authority to proceedings, with Williams's tendency to over-sentimentalise (remember Wimbledon before Sue Barker) minimised by the simple expedient of keeping him off-screen. Some superb pictures were provided by ISPR, the rights holder and host broadcaster. Although its camera operators' pursuit of a pretty face was occasionally distracting (the Munich crowd spend most of the time staring upwards trying to catch themselves on monitors), the super-slow motion replays of line calls and even foot faults were extraordinarily precise. The BBC already has the technology to provide similar facilities for its Wimbledon coverage. All that is required is the consent of the All England Club and flying chalk could be a thing of the past. I'm serious.

TENNIS: BUOYANT GERMAN SECURES GRAND SLAM CUP

Becker serves notice of return to form

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN MUNICH

THE year has ended much too early for Boris Becker. Yesterday he rounded off his season with a near-perfect display of tennis to beat Goran Ivanisevic 6-3, 6-4, 6-4 in the final of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. Having reached such a peak, he now has nowhere to go until next month, when the new season starts and he goes to defend his Australian Open title.

It has been a frustrating 12 months for Becker. Just when he had returned to the type of form that lifted him to the No 1 spot in the world rankings, he picked up a virus infection that kept him out for three months. He had to miss the French Open with a torn thigh muscle and then, fit again in time for Queen's, he injured his wrist during Wimbledon and had to miss the next 2½ months. Now aged 29, time is running out for Becker if he is to get his wish and win one more Wimbledon title.

With Becker, anything is possible once he puts his mind to it. Facing the fiercest service on the men's circuit, he gave Ivanisevic a taste of his own medicine. He conceded just 15 points on his own service and seven of those were gifts in the form of double faults. Never did Ivanisevic have a chance to threaten Becker and in return Becker was reading Ivanisevic's every move.

The day before Ivanisevic had served 42 aces in his five-set defeat

of Yevgeny Kafelnikov, but by Sunday the well was all but dry. Managing only a paltry 12 thunderbolts, he ran out of ideas as Becker brushed him aside. "Usually when I have lost to him before, and lost easily, I at least had chances to break but not today," he said.

With two such big servers facing each other on a fast indoor court, rallies are at a premium: serve, return and maybe a volley is about all about the crowd is going to get. In all departments, Becker was the

better player and on the odd occasion when some tennis did break out, Becker tended to win from the baseline, too. Before the end of the first set Ivanisevic was beginning to grumble and mutter and by the time he reached the third set he knew he was well beaten.

Still, the week had not been too bad an experience for Ivanisevic. He was planning to pull out of the tournament on Monday. Feeling ill, he went looking for the tournament referee to withdraw but never found him. A good night's sleep later, he thought he might give it a go and

ended up in the final. The \$812,500 (about £50,000) he won as runner-up came as an unexpected bonus.

With that in mind, he was not too upset by the defeat. Becker at his peak is a frightening prospect for anyone. "I think he is playing his best tennis ever," Ivanisevic said. "In my opinion he is faster, he's moving better and he's playing much better. He realised that if he wants to stay at the top he has to go one step better and he did it. He's playing unbelievable tennis."

With the rest of the top players complaining that their year is too long, that they are too tired, Becker faces a different problem as he tries to maintain his fitness and form while the rest of the world puts its feet up for Christmas. He admits that it is a lot easier to contemplate the new year when he is playing so well, but having come so far and with the goal of another grand slam so important to him, a festive season with the family Becker could involve a lot of hard work.

"You have to improve each year, almost each month, because the competition is learning," he said. "Players are going to read my game and I have to find new ways to surprise them. I will go to Australia as the defending champion and everyone is going to hunt me. But I've managed before to step up when the pressure was the most — hopefully I can do it again."



Becker raises his arms to acknowledge the crowd after beating Ivanisevic in Munich yesterday

Henman savours valuable reward

Alix Ramsay believes Britain's No 1 player is richer for experience of defeat by Becker

THE last few days in Germany have been a lucrative time for Tim Henman. On Saturday, he earned another \$431,250 (about £266,000) to add to his already bulging bank account by losing to Boris Becker 7-6, 6-3, 6-4 in the semi-final of the Compaq Grand Slam Cup. Although it took his annual earnings to a healthy \$853,247, the 1hr 50min he spent on court with Becker gave him something more valuable than any pay cheque, the knowledge that he can hold his own with the top players.

It was the first time Henman had been in such a situation — taking on the world No 6 in his own backyard — and, for a set and a half, he gave Becker a run for his money. Most people would have forgiven Henman for showing signs of stage-fright in front of an 11,000-strong German crowd, but the young man from Oxford was coolness itself. He started as he meant to go on, standing toe-to-toe with Becker, matching him ace-for-ace and having the temerity to threaten the famous Becker service.

Yet the gap between the top men and the young pretenders is a hard one to bridge and when it came to the key points in the first set tie-break, Henman did not have the power or experience to counter a player who has won six grand-slam titles in the past 12 years. "For the first set and a half, I was still hanging in there trying to create chances," he said, "but, at the end of the day, I think he's better than me. That's the bottom line."

Nevertheless, Becker was impressed with his opponent. "You improve by playing," he said. "He's only been on the circuit for two years and already he's come a long way. Who knows how far he will go. He has a great first serve, he's got good hands and he comes up with some surprising shots sometimes. All in all, he's a player with a good future."

Henman, for his part, knows exactly what he has to

do if he is to climb up the world rankings from his present position of No 29. "There's a lot to be gained from a week like this," he said. "Boris definitely takes some beating, but it's a consistency thing. When I'm playing my best tennis, I'm able to stay with someone of his calibre, but it is his consistency — he's able to keep playing like that for four or five sets. At the moment, I probably couldn't do that."

When Henman will have time to spend some of his newfound wealth is open to question. He has only a few days



Henman: improving

off before the preparations start in earnest for the first tournament of the year in Doha and, from there, it is on to the Australian Open.

Much of that time will be spent in the gym as he tries to strengthen his slender frame. Standing 6ft 1in and 11st 1lb, he knows he needs to be stronger. On Saturday, the sheer power of Becker, added to the years of dealing with the pressure points in pressure matches, made the difference.

"Yeah, I'm disappointed," Henman said, "but there a lot of positives to take away from this and the experience I have gained from playing some of the best will stand me in good stead."

AAA to withhold financial support

THE AAA of England decided at its annual meeting on Saturday to resist offering financial assistance to the British Athletic Federation (BAF), despite having resources of £1.8 million (David Powell writes). The BAF has lost £750,000 in the past two years. "We do not want to pour money into the black hole that is the BAF," Eric Shirley, a delegate, said. "If there is money to spare it should go to our regions, where 100 per cent will be spent on athletics."

Geoff Clarke, the AAA treasurer, expressed concern over a new television contract. "We have been unable to find out if this includes the AAA championship. There have been suggestions that only BAF championships will be included. If so, we shall try to obtain our own sponsor and TV contract."

Cook finishes first

ATHLETICS: Stephanie Cook, a final year medical student at Oxford, who won the women's University cross-country race on Wimbledon Common, only took up running when injury stopped her rowing. Cook is now concentrating on modern pentathlon. She is in the national squad but admits it will be hard to fit in training, and her ambition to reach the Sydney Olympics, with her opening two years as a doctor. The Dark Blues took all the team honours, winning the women's race, men's race — to level the series at 53 victories each — and Old Blues race.

Doncaster step down

FOOTBALL: Croydon moved above Doncaster Belles on goal difference in the Women's Premier National League after a 1-1 draw at Everton. Doncaster lost 3-2 at Arsenal in a pulsating match. The Belles went 2-0 up, through Vicky Exley and Karen Walker, before a second-half revival by Arsenal, who remain unbeaten, brought goals for Joanne Broadhurst, Kara-Lee Reynolds and Marieanne Spacey.

Sussex fall short

LACROSSE: Hertfordshire, skipped by the England co-captain, Lois Richardson, became the women's All-England Counties champions for the first time in ten years when they defeated Sussex 3-0 in the final at Newbury on Saturday. Hertfordshire had been Berkshire in the semi-finals, while Sussex edged out Surrey in the final four as they reached the All-England finals for the first time.

Male captures title

RACKETS: James Male, the world champion, underlined his dominance with a hard-fought victory over the former world champion, Willie Boone, to take the Lacoste British amateur championship. Male, 32, who had survived a hard-hitting struggle in his semi-final to defeat Guy Barker, eventually emerged the winner, 4-15, 15-11, 17-14, 15-10.

Hendry pockets award

SNOOKER: Stephen Hendry, the world champion, pocketed another top award last night when he was selected as the BBC Scotland Sports Personality of the Year, an award he won in 1989. Hendry made it a double as he was also named in the Team of the Year, with Alan McManus and John Higgins, his fellow World Cup players.

SUCCESS.
IT'S A
MIND
GAME.

TAG Heuer watches are the most reliable timepieces in the world. The Gents' TAG Heuer one of 100,000/100,000, 100,000/100,000, 100,000/100,000, 100,000/100,000.

GOLDSMITH'S WALKER & HALL

THE MARK OF A FINE ENGLISH

Australia basks in barren nights and floodlit follies

The boys in the marketing department of the Australian Cricket Board (ACB) got their heads together and came up with "One Day You Will Never Forget" as their slogan for the limited-overs series this year. A nonsense, of course, as the essence of a one-day game is that it is forgotten before the next one begins, but the catchphrase works like the chorus of an inane repetitive pop song.

For the sell-out crowd of 40,000 in Sydney yesterday, there were things to remember for a while, if not quite forever. The sun shone after a stormy 24 hours and Shane Warne took five wickets in 15 balls. After nightfall, although Curtly Ambrose smiled and bowled fast, things previously beyond him, Australia beat West Indies by eight wickets well before closing time. All reasons to be cheerful. Assess the game soberly, however, and it was dull, one-sided, formulaised.

Perhaps it was no bad thing, therefore, that distractions were on hand. Americanised musical jingles interspersed the action. Brian Lara, heartily booed onto the ground by a

nation that has taken against his tantrums, was out for 26 and dispatched to a rendering of *See You Later Alligator*. Sherwin Campbell's *adieu* was *Return to Sender*, and if Junior Murray was not sufficiently embarrassed by a dreadful dismissal to Warne, he had to walk off to *Hit The Road Jack*.

There is a great deal of international limited-overs cricket and the majority is mundane. To ensure that the crowds keep coming, ever more marketing devices are required. This, anyway, is how it is viewed in Australia, and they have more practice here than anywhere else.

Twenty years ago, the very idea of floodlit internationals was still being ridiculed. Coloured clothing was a shocking notion. It was then, late in 1976, that Kerry Packer was losing his fight to televise Australian Test cricket, and hatching the plans that were to spawn the excesses now taken for granted.

establishment. He still attends occasionally, and is welcomed like a favourite uncle, but there may be times when even he shakes his head at how far the product has been refined or abused, according to your taste, since the November night in 1978 when he staged the first floodlit match on the Sydney ground and 52,000 turned up.

The night-cricket clothes have improved, now properly resembling pyjamas rather than the skin-tight outfits that sat so unflatteringly on Rod Marsh and his generation, and subtle rule-changes have

Alan Lee, in Sydney, on the hits and misses of cricket's latest marketing ploys

been generally for the good. It is, however, the presentation of night cricket that, year by year, has altered almost beyond recognition.

Two years ago, the ACB regained control of its own marketing, cutting links with the company first employed by Packer. Since then, the departmental turnover increased almost 400 per cent. This is genuinely big business, sufficient to allow the leading

Australian players to earn £200,000 a year from representing their country before any personal endorsements are added. In turn, the players are expected to be supportive of all areas of marketing, even those at which they may privately cringe.

Most players, for instance, deplore and resent the Mexican wave, considering it a potential distraction. The Australians cannot complain, for

it is actively encouraged by an advertisement for their Test-match sponsor, which depicts a plane-load of passengers and air crew performing it. The first wave yesterday occurred after 14 minutes.

It is all part of the desire for audience participation. The English do not go in for this, clinging to the admirable but off-misplaced belief that their spectators need nothing other than the cricket to amuse them. In England, where domestic one-day cricket is absurdly overplayed, the international equivalent is harshly rationed. Australia

were happy to play five Tests and five one-day games on the Ashes tour last summer, but England insisted on a split of six and three.

Priorities here have shifted back towards Test cricket, but they also know their one-day market and sloop at little to sustain and increase it. Lounge lizards are well fed. A recent poll identified cricket as the top television sport, so they are given valuable competitions and close access to their cricketers.

Those at the grounds find that banners, prohibited in England, are promoted (there is a prize for the best each day). Children, tolerated elsewhere, are keenly encouraged. The ACB has set up face-painting stalls on each ground, and the Christmas merchandise features a Shane Warne kit: how to bowl leg spin like the master. It is selling out everywhere.

Not before time, players wear large numbers on their backs for identification — it helps to persuade people to buy a programme, too. Automation now extends to the sight-screens, although the start yesterday was delayed because one was stuck in

commercial mode, but in a country where the competition of baseball, basketball and now even street hockey is being slapped down by the ACB, the American influence of sound and vision aids are the most striking change.

There was an experiment with individual songs for the entrance of each batsman — Glenn McGrath chose the Beatles' *Help* — but the send-offs are more popular. The symbiosis between giant screens and public address is sometimes agreeable enough, as when a show of racing results is accompanied by the drum of hoofbeats, but occasionally it strays into politically dubious areas.

A shot of a shapely woman in the crowd brought a bugle call: pictures of police moving in to an unruly element of the crowd were joined by the sound of a crackling whip. Some spectators seemed amused, others shifted uncomfortably. They reacted as one only when Warne was twice on a hair-trick. Then, the noise rose, unbidden, to a deafening crescendo. Sometimes, even in the obsessively modern world of one-day cricket, the game can still speak for itself.



Lara hits out during West Indies' defeat yesterday

SCOREBOARD FROM SYDNEY	
WEST INDIES	
B.L. Campbell c Taylor b Ambrose	38
A.P. G. G. Smith c Taylor b Ambrose	1
B.C. Lara c Healy b Moody	26
G.L. Hooper c Healy b Moody	21
J.C. Adams c Healy b Moody	22
R.I.C. Holder b Warne	22
T.U. Murray c Bennett b Warne	8
N.A.M. McLean c Bennett b Warne	8
K.C.G. Benjamin b Warne	6
C.E.L. Ambrose not out	0
C.A. Watson b Warne	0
Extras (b 4, w 1, nb 5)	10
Total (48.3 overs)	161
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-8, 2-22, 3-51, 4-124, 5-142, 6-147, 7-147, 8-155, 9-155	
AUSTRALIA	
M.A. Taylor c Holder b Ambrose	17
M.E. Vaughan not out	33
R.T. Ponting b Walsh	44
G.S. Blewett not out	12
Extras (w 1, nb 5)	6
Total (24 wickets, 48 overs)	165
M.G. Barnes, S.G. Law, T.M. Moody, W.A. Healy, P.R. Reiffel, S.K. Warne and G.D. McGrath did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-39, 2-137	
BOWLING	
Warne 9-0-35-1, Bennett 10-1-38-0, Ambrose 8-1-27-1, McLean 10-0-27-0, Hooper 5-0-24-0, Adams 4-1-16-0	
Man of the match: S.K. Warne	
Umpires: D. Har and T. Pave	

CRICKET: IMPROVED PERFORMANCE PROVIDES OVERDUE VICTORY ON TOUR OF ZIMBABWE

England show signs of turning corner

FROM SIMON WILDE IN BULAWAYO

A WIN is a win is a win. Matabeleland may not be a power in world cricket, but when you are as short of scalps as England, anyone's will do, and they gratefully accepted theirs at the Athletic Club here yesterday.

It was the touring party's first win in four matches in Zimbabwe and only their fourth in 19 games overseas in 1996, as against 14 defeats. Their previous victims were South Africa, in Bloemfontein, and the United Arab Emirates and Holland, in Peshawar.

If England are to lengthen this list before the year is out, there is still much work to be done because, although this was a great improvement on the insipid display against Mashonaland last week, this was not an entirely convincing performance, even if the margin — 59 runs — was. It was late afternoon before another embarrassing defeat could be ruled out.

The best aspect of the day was the form and fitness of Michael Atherton, the England captain. He had not been expected to play, and did so against the wishes of David Lloyd, the coach, but he was clearly confident that the injections that he had last Friday to reduce the pain in his lower back, had done the trick.

Opening the innings with Knight after England were put in, he helped them to their best start of the tour with a stream of crisp boundaries and looked set for a long stay. In fact, he misused a ball from Streak into the hands of silly mid-on to the eighth over when the score was already 45, but he had done enough to suggest that his bad rot was at an end. He later fielded enthusiastically and executed a smart run-out of Streak. "I actually enjoyed fielding," he said afterwards.

Unfortunately, England squandered their good start. On a ground with a temptingly short boundary on one side, they should have reached 250, but the good work of Atherton and Knight — who stayed until the thirtieth over for 58 — was undone by a succession of players holing out. Hussain pushed a ball to wide mid-on, Russell — playing because Stewart was ruled out by a back spasm — were lured to their doom on the short side



Atherton pulls a ball from Streak to the boundary during his encouraging innings of 28 against Matabeleland in Bulawayo yesterday

of the ground. For this, some credit must go to outstanding fielding — far better than England's later — and the bowling of the Whitall cousins, Andrew and Guy.

This pair could hardly be more different. Andrew is tall and academic, Guy short and outdoorsy, having worked on his father's big game reserve before turning professional — both of which contrasts contribute to their dressing-room nicknames of Whit and Half-whit — but they shared the knack of strangling the life out of an England innings that had reached 120 for four after 30 overs, but only 210 for nine by its end.

Andrew — an off spinner whose first-class wickets cost him 50 runs each on average, suggesting that he will be no great threat come the Test

matches — removed Hussain and Thorpe and played his part in the partnership of 53 between Crawley and Irani, soaking up 14 overs. Guy's probing medium pace was rewarded with a wicket in

each of his last four overs. Another difference between the cousins is that Andrew is not a batsman and Guy is, as England already know from his innings of 58 and 36 not out in earlier matches on the tour.

SCORECARD FROM BULAWAYO	
ENGLAND	
M.A. Atherton c Russell b Whitall	58
N.J. Knight c Russell b Whitall	36
M.J. G. Smith c Russell b Whitall	11
G.P. Thorpe c Russell b Whitall	11
J.P. Crawley c Russell b Whitall	30
R.C. Russell c Russell b Whitall	20
R.C. Russell c Russell b Whitall	16
D. Gough b G.D. McGrath	2
R.D. B. Lee b G.D. McGrath	2
C.E.W. Swales not out	4
Extras (b 3, w 1, nb 2)	16
Total (48.3 overs)	270
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-45, 2-58, 3-114, 4-124, 5-173, 6-173, 7-184, 8-193, 9-201	
BOWLING	
Whitall: Streak 7-0-28-1, Gough 9-0-34-2, Russell 10-0-31-2, Cribb 10-0-35-2, Whitall 10-0-45-4, Daker 7-0-35-1	
Umpires: J. Ferwick and E. Gilmour	
MATABELELAND	
J.R. Craig b Thorpe	35
M.J. Daker c Russell b Mulally	13
T.M. Madoriso b Russell	13
H.W. R. James c Knight b Cribb	33
M.D. Aherne b Russell	33
H.H. Streak not out	13
M. Ransford c Mulally b Silverwood	8
J.A. Rennie b Irani	8
R.K. Olonga b Gough	2
Extras (b 3, w 3, nb 1)	7
Total (48.3 overs)	181
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-6, 2-20, 3-44, 4-64, 5-112, 6-138, 7-138, 8-147, 9-148	
BOWLING	
Mulally 7-0-14-2, Gough 8-3-2-1, Silverwood 10-0-31-2, Cribb 10-0-45-4, Whitall 10-0-45-4	
Umpires: J. Ferwick and E. Gilmour	

He came good again yesterday with a sound 35, which suggested that he may be a handful in the Test. Fortunately for England, he was let down by his supporting cast and it was soon clear that, of the two cricketers in Zimbabwe, it is Mashonaland that have the monopoly on batsmen.

That said, England gave by far their best exhibition of bowling on the tour and it was this that gave Atherton most satisfaction. Mulally and Gough bowled with encouraging control for the first 12 overs — Mulally dispatching Craig and Daker — Cribb again bowled a probing spell and Silverwood showed the steadiness that got him on the tour and was so curiously absent in his first match, eight days earlier.

When James and Abrams were putting together Matabeleland's highest partnership of 47, in the middle of the innings, it was still possible to envisage an England defeat, but Cribb removed both in four overs and the tail folded in the face of the rising asking rate.

While England showed signs of blowing the cobwebs off their bowling, there were indications that a few still clung to Olonga and Streak. Zimbabwe's likely new-ball pair for the Test matches, Olonga generated a good head of steam but finished witless, while Streak appeared cumbersome and well below his best. He has been out of action for several weeks with a groin strain and has plenty of catching up to do before the first Test match begins next week.

Hegg on song as England A wind up trip

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN BRISBANE

FEW cricketers can match Jack Russell, the England wicketkeeper, for the exuberance and enthusiasm he brings to his art. But Warren Hegg, who has emerged as a possible rival for his place, has both qualities in abundance, matched by a willingness to learn.

Hegg, 28, the Lancashire wicketkeeper, whose batting put him ahead of Keith Piper, Paul Nixon and Karl Krikken in the selection for the England A tour, has more than justified his inclusion in the 14-strong party with an impressive tally of 28 catches.

It is perhaps fitting, then, that Hegg will be playing against Ian Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper and the cricketer he admires most, when England A complete their tour with a four-day match against Queensland at the Gabba, starting tomorrow.

Hegg, who along with Adam Hoolioke, the captain, are the only two players to have competed in every match of the tour, will take his place in a line-up which will not be finalised until the tourists take stock of various injuries.

Andrew Harris, the Derbyshire fast bowler, has a bruised foot and Jason Gallian, the Lancashire batsman, has a cracked right index finger. Both will have

rigorous net sessions at the Gabba tomorrow to prove their fitness.

Mark Ealham and Hollie-oake, who both suffered bruised fingers on the minefield of a pitch at Wollongong in the rain-hit one-day match against New South Wales on Saturday, are expected to be fit for selection.

ENGLAND A	
M.A. Butler c Matthews b Lee	20
M.P. Vaughan not out	3
A. McGrath b Lee	10
T.J. Hockley c Emery b Lee	0
I.W. K. Hegg c Roberts b Lee	1
C. White c Chees b Robinson	23
M.A. Ealham not out	19
A.F. Giles not out	0
Extras (b 5, w 6, nb 4)	15
Total (36 wickets, 30.4 overs)	154
G. Chappell, D.W. Healy and P.M. Sush did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-27, 2-30, 3-35, 4-45, 5-58, 6-144	
BOWLING	
Stuart 9-0-34-0, Neame 9-1-57-0, Lee 8-0-35-4, Addison 2-0-14-0, Robinson 2-0-9-1	

NEW SOUTH WALES: G.R. Matthews W. Addams, R. Chees, P.A. Emery, S. Lee, S. Niekirk, C.J. Richards, P.A. Roberts, G.R. Robinson, M.J. Slater, A.J. Stuart, Umpires: J.I. Cameron and A.G. Johnston

□ The England Under-19 bowlers overcame a frustrating start to their four-day match against Pakistan Under-19 in Faisalabad to gain a firm foothold. After winning the toss, Farhan Adil (26) and Shahid Qambrani (68) built up an opening partnership of 91, helped by two dropped catches, but England dropped through the rest of the order to leave Pakistan at 248 for nine at the close.

Adams returns to haunt India

PAUL ADAMS, the wrist spinner, was the main reason why South Africa routed the tables on India on the first day of the third and final Test in Kanpur yesterday.

Adams, hit out of the attack during the morning session, returned to remove Rahul Dravid, Mohammed Azharuddin, the former India captain, and Sunil Joshi without a ball to reduce the home side to 204 for six by the close.

Tendulkar, whose side had looked in control for most of the day, was left isolated at the non-striker's end as four wickets tumbled for 33 runs after tea.

But the India captain, who ended the day undefeated on 43, knows that the wicket could benefit his side in the long run, with South Africa due to bat last on a slow, low and increasingly difficult track.

the first Test but were thrashed by 329 runs in Calcutta, opted to bat and his openers responded by reaching 76 without loss by lunch.

The South Africans, however, refused to lie down. Mongia, on 41 at the break.

INDIA: First innings	
N.R. Mongia b McGrath	41
W.V. Ramen c Kuseen b McGrath	37
S.C. Ganguly b McGrath	39
S.R. Tendulkar not out	43
S. Dravid b McGrath	7
M. Azharuddin c McGrath b Adams	5
S. Joshi c Kuseen b Adams	0
A. Kuseen not out	5
Extras (b 1, lb 5, nb 1)	7
Total (48 wickets)	204
A.R. Kapoor, J. Smith and B.K.V. Prasad did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-78, 2-111, 3-180, 4-185, 5-193, 6-193	
BOWLING	
De Villiers 15-7-18-0, Kuseen 17-4-47-0, Symcox 21-9-57-0, McGrath 18-7-42-0, Adams 14-8-31-2, Corpse 5-4-5-1	
SOUTH AFRICA: A.C. Hudson, G. Kuseen, T.H. Sibson, D.J. Gales, M.J. Guseen, G.M. McMillan, D.J. Richardson, P.T. Symcox, L. Kuseen, P.B. de Villiers and P.R. Adams	
Umpires: D.R. Shepherd (England) and S. Venkataraghavan (India)	

lasted just five more balls before McMillan, the all-rounder, removed his middle stump.

Mongia's partner, Ramen, reached his half-century, claiming 11 boundaries on the way, but then drove at McMillan and saw the ball flash into Kuseen's hands at gully.

Ganguly and Tendulkar seemed to have restored home advantage, taking India to 155 for two at tea.

Again, however, Hansie Cronje's men produced the perfect response, the South African captain trapping Ganguly leg-before on the front foot with the score on 160. Cronje and Fanie de Villiers then combined to bowl eight maiden overs in a row.

Openers overwhelm Pakistan

NEW Zealand concluded their tour of Pakistan with a convincing seven-wicket victory in the third and final one-day international in Karachi yesterday. Chasing a Pakistan total of 234-4, New Zealand completed an emphatic victory in the 46th over in front of a near-50,000 crowd at the National Stadium.

Nathan Astle and Bryan Young established the platform for New Zealand's victory with an aggressive opening stand of 96.

Astle, who was named man of the match, scored 60 off 69 deliveries, including four fours and a six, before he was run out.

SCOREBOARD FROM KARACHI	
PAKISTAN	
Saeed Anwar c Young b Vaughan	16
Zameer Khan b Hart	51
Inzamam-ul-Haq c Gilmour b Hart	7
Ijaz Ahmed not out	73
Muhammad Wasim c and b Harris	25
Waqar Younis not out	66
Extras (b 5, w 5, nb 3)	13
Total (48 wickets, 50 overs)	234
Shahid Afridi, Moin Khan, Mubeen Ahmed, Sajid Mahmood and Mohammad Zaidi did not bat	
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-36, 2-62, 3-103, 4-105	
BOWLING	
Doull 4-0-23-0, Vaughan 10-3-59-1, Collins 9-0-45-0, Astle 8-2-37-0, Hart 10-1-33-2, Harris 9-0-42-1	
NEW ZEALAND	
B.A. Young c Wasim b Shahid	32

Three balls earlier Young, who had reached 33 from 38 balls, was caught by Wasim

Akram, the Pakistan captain, off Shahid Afridi, the leg spinner. The pair were particularly severe on Mohammed Zahid, playing his first one-day international in place of Waqar Younis.

Stephen Fleming and Adam Parore further consolidated the New Zealand position with an 84-run third wicket partnership. Parore scored 47 before he was caught behind off Wasim while Fleming, who won the man-of-the-series award for New Zealand, remained unbeaten on 48. The other not out batsman was Chris Cairns, who made 25.

Earlier Wasim and Ijaz Ahmed had taken 68 — of a total partnership of 108 — off the last five overs of the innings. Saeed Anwar, the opener, was named man of the series for Pakistan.

Good-bye battery



Welcome to the future: Seiko Kinetic®, the first quartz watch that turns your movement into power. Every move you make is converted into electrical impulses by a tiny built-in powerhouse. Ecological, reliable and efficient: wear it one day to gain energy for at least two weeks. Wear it daily — it will run continually. Made of titanium: light, yet strong and kind to your skin. 20 bar water resistant. One-way rotating bezel and screw lock crown. Seiko Kinetic — it's built to last. Someday all watches will be made this way.

SEIKO KINETIC
Seiko Kinetic at: <http://www.seiko-corp.co.jp>

FOOTBALL: SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY EXPOSE FAILINGS OF ANFIELD TITLE HOPEFULS AS WIMBLEDON'S CHALLENGE GATHERS PACE

Liverpool lose marks in test of potential

Liverpool 0
Sheffield Wednesday 1

By DAVID MADDOCK

IF THERE is a defining image of this match, it is of Steve McManaman, arm raised in futile demand of the ball. He was man-marked, with Peter Atherton the celebrity stalker, but that is routine for the Liverpool forward. Shadow or not, he still pleads for service. On this occasion, he did not get it.

Much was made of Sheffield Wednesday's use of their captain to contain the England international, but that rather missed the point. It was not that McManaman was subdued, but rather the supply lines to him. McManaman showed that, even with sparse service, he could still be dangerous, and yet his teammates seemed incapable of getting the ball to him.

"We didn't play with our heads, we did not play intelligent football," Roy Evans, the Liverpool manager, said. "Steve McManaman was man-marked, yet he still had chances when he got the ball. But if we don't get the ball to him early, if we don't pass the ball with sharpness, then we will have problems, and that's what happened."

The match was a tactical success for David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, but not for something as simplistic as man-marking a danger-man. Four times Liverpool managed to get the ball to McManaman in the first half, with Atherton behind, and four times he was fouled. Eventually, a yellow card arrived. Another foul, another foul, and a red would have followed.

It did not, because Pleat's masterplan was not simply to shadow McManaman, but also to swamp Barnes and Thomas, who was the industry of Hyde, Pembroke and Whittingham that the Liver-

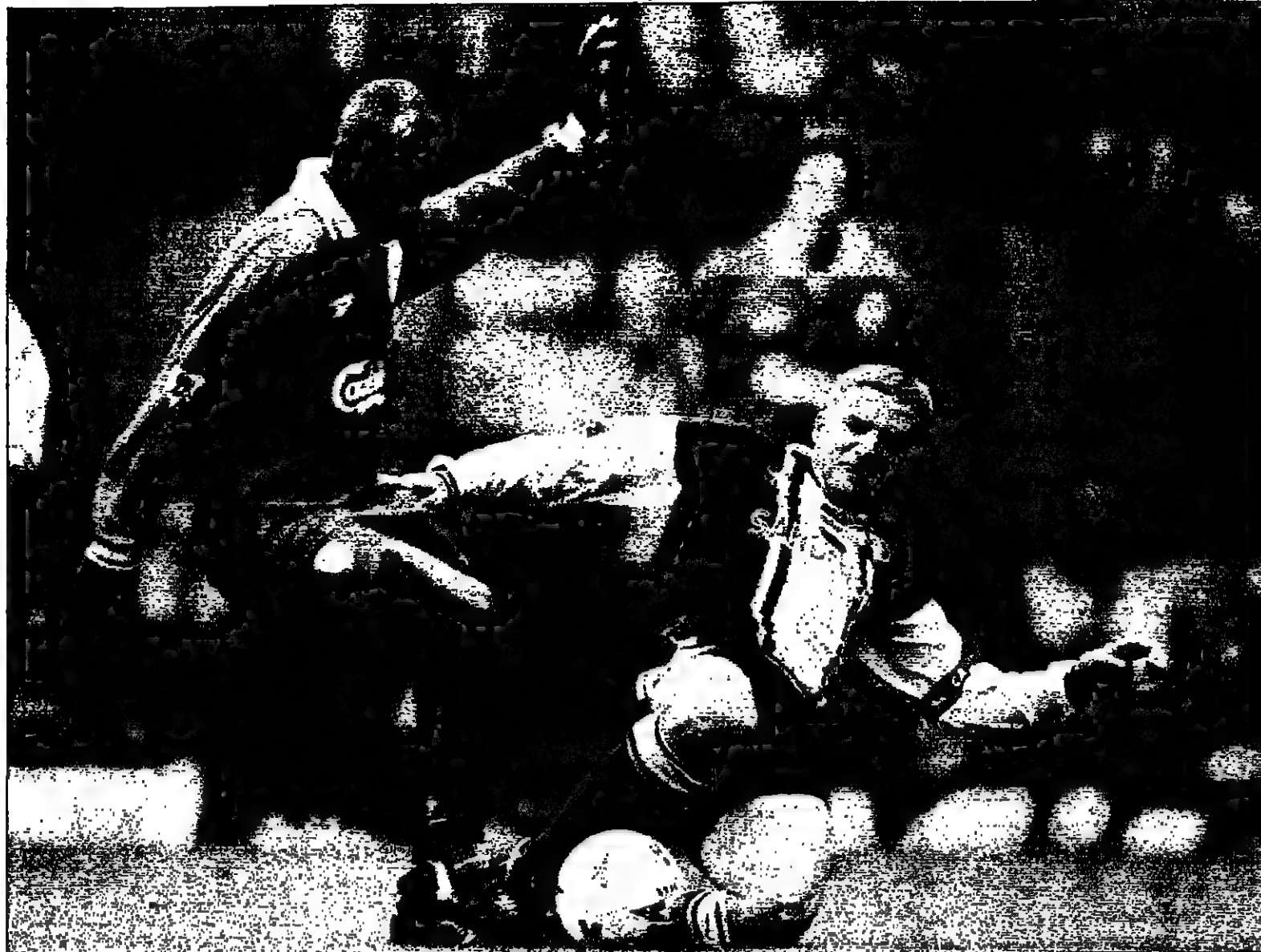
pool midfield barely saw the ball, let alone possession enough to craft the bullets for the forwards to fire.

Evans talked of finding alternatives under such circumstances, but if Liverpool have a weakness, it is here. McAteer and Bjornbye were imprecise on the flanks, and the three central defenders simply not comfortable enough on the ball. If the midfield is shackled, the wing back formation is designed to allow the sweeper to step up with the ball to create options. It does not work when, like Ruddock, the sweeper simply hoofs long balls down the field.

Put simply, Wednesday snapped and snarled in their terrier-like pursuit of the game, to such an extent that they forced the home side into mistakes that cost them the match. Indeed, the only surprise in a first half that Wednesday dominated was that they did not score more. Booth headed over and Pembroke blasted wide within the first two minutes, then Nicol almost crowned an impressive return to his former club with a near-post shot that James clawed out. Pembroke again volleyed wide, before he showed that his inaccuracy shooting does have its uses.

After 21 minutes, McAteer, searching for McManaman, again gave the ball away to Atherton, who found Pembroke. His shot was woeful, but was mis-hit to such an extent that it found Whittingham, lurking towards the right edge of the penalty area, and his first-time stab found the net via the goalkeeper and post.

Only then did Liverpool look interested, but, as Evans said: "We can't afford to start playing when a third of the game has already gone." What little they did create came through McManaman, who forced an error from Pressman, only for the goalkeeper to atone with a fine



Atherton, right, the Wednesday defender who so effectively marked McManaman, briefly turns his attentions to thwarting Thomas

save from Fowler after McAteer had hit the post.

McManaman found the woodwork himself in the second half with a soaring header, and Pressman saved well from Fowler, again, and Berger. In truth, though, Liverpool's casual arrogance, throughout a first half that

they apparently thought was theirs by right, denied them the claim of injustice.

Wednesday move up to ninth in the FA Carling Premiership, but they are still a side in the making, more comfortable on afternoons like this, when they can frustrate and pick up the scraps rather

than take the responsibility of forcing the creative pace. To go higher, they will need more guile in midfield, and a more convincing presence alongside the willing Booth.

Does any team want to win the title? It appears that Liverpool do not, such is their poor home form. Two points from

the last nine hardly suggests championship material, but the similar reluctance of their chief rivals offers some consolation. Throughout the match, a perfunctory section among the Wednesday supporters bemoaned a mediocre beat. Such a rhythm, to their passing, is what Liverpool must

rediscover if they are to be champions.

LIVERPOOL (5-5-1-1): D. Jones — M. Wright, M. Ruddock, P. Booth (sub: Kennedy, 60min) — J. McAteer, M. Thomas, J. Barnes, P. Berger, S. I. Bjornbye — S. McManaman — R. Fowler.
SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-1-3-1-1): K. Pressman — J. Nicol, D. Walker, D. Siskovic, S. Reid — P. Atherton, Whittingham, G. Hyde, M. Pembroke — S. Carbone (sub: R. Barker, 78) — A. Booth. Referee: M. Reed.

Kinnear keeping his dream alive

Sunderland 1
Wimbledon 3

By MARK HODKINSON

THE question was simple enough but, for a second, Joe Kinnear's honest blue eyes iced over and not a word was spoken. Caught dreaming, he hurriedly summoned cliché and ambiguity to hide his apoplexy — an excusable reaction, surely, since the question had never been asked before: could Wimbledon win the FA Carling Premiership?

"We'll take each game as it comes," he muttered on Saturday. "I don't want to put extra pressure on the lads. All I can say is that it has taken me seven years to put this squad together, and if we can stay injury-free and we're still in this position with six or seven games to go, we are going to be as hard to beat as anyone."

The subtext was manifest, despite the linguistic fog. Kinnear believes that Wimbledon can win the league. And why not? His team is second only to Arsenal, is unbeaten in 18 matches and, most significant, is playing a mature, confident brand of football.

Peter Reid, the Sunderland manager, suggested that it was "men against boys", and while this slightly overstated the disparity, Wimbledon's cunning and ruthlessness was beyond the ken of blood-and-thunder Sunderland.

Reid's team works at one pace, an extremely fast one with which rudiments such as passing and dribbling are merely coincidental. Sunderland attempt to draw the air from the match until, more by effort than design, opponents end up gasping for breath, wondering how the ball ended up in their net. Wimbledon were, in effect, playing against the ghosts of their former selves.

These days, however, in players such as Leonhardsen, Earle and Ekoku, they have statesmen able to rise above ignominious squabbles. They stepped gracefully through the blur of tackles, their minds and feet always two seconds in front of their earnest pursuers.

Wimbledon's intelligent approach was apparent throughout. They had clearly passed a watchful eye over their opponents. Perez, quite rightly, was earmarked as being perturbed by players in close proximity.

Robson feels heat 34
Woking wonders 33
Fry survives 31

so, at every free kick and corner, Blackwell contested the six-yard area.

The first goal came from Ekoku's forehead smash after some head tennis in the Sunderland penalty area. The same player added a second with a crisp shot from a fine pass by Shaye. Sunderland's first shot came when Ratten tested Sullivan from distance ten minutes before half-time.

Sunderland countered briefly when Melville headed in direct from a corner but, five minutes later, Ekoku embarked on a salom run between defenders, the ball ricocheting to Holdsworth, who curled it adroitly past Perez.

"We're going to win the league," the clutch of Wimbledon supporters sang, while Sam Hammam, the club's owner, hugged every player as they left the pitch. In contrast, there were grumbles from the Sunderland supporters. Although unequivocally beaten by the better team, they were right to ponder why Reid had played just one striker, Russell, and left the club's best player, Bridges, on the substitutes' bench until nearly an hour had elapsed.

Reid was not hiding his respect for Wimbledon. "They deserved the victory," he said. "They are very well organised. I am hoping my lads will see it as a lesson learnt. I am not going to go raving mad at the lads after one defeat against a very good team."

Kinnear cheerfully accepted every after-match request for an interview. The same simple question was asked repeatedly. His eyes began to twinkle again, the smile grew broader. Wimbledon, just 19 years on from their Football League debut — a 3-3 draw with Halifax Town — are set for a Premiership title challenge. The dream goes on.

SUNDERLAND (4-4-1-1): I. Phillips — D. Kibuka, A. Melville, R. Carr, M. Scott — D. Kelly (sub: M. Bridges, 50min), P. Blackwell, K. Bala, M. Smith — A. Ratten (sub: M. Gray, 81).
WIMBLEDON (4-3-1-3): M. Sullivan — K. Cunningham, D. Blackwell, C. Perry, A. Kinnear — R. Earle (sub: M. Hartford, 75), V. Jones, W. Aducci — D. Leonhardsen, M. Goyle (sub: D. Holdsworth, 78), E. Ekoku. Referee: K. Budge.

Iversen receives highest praise

Coventry City 1
Tottenham Hotspur 2

By IVO TENNANT

COMPARISONS may be odious, but they are also inevitable. Upon arrival at Tottenham Hotspur's training ground last week, Steffen Iversen, their new forward from Norway, signed for £2.5 million, was asked which number he would like to have emblazoned on his shirt. Unwittingly, but much to his pleasure, he opted for the talismanic figure of 18, once worn with distinction by Jürgen Klinsmann.

The comparisons did not end there. Indeed, they were carried on by Gerry Francis, the Tottenham manager, long after this well-merited victory. Iversen, he reckoned, not only looks like Klinsmann but plays like him, too. "He has two good feet, pace, ability in the air, gives Teddy Sheringham more space and I have seen him score lots of excellent goals in Europe."

By the time Francis had finished his giddy discourse, he had made you believe Iversen was a world-beater. There is, though, the matter of burden of expectation. Not many footballers from overseas have been, or will be, as successful as Klinsmann. Against Coventry City, having met his colleagues only the previous day, Iversen was given the ball all too infrequently.

However, he played a memorable part in Tottenham's second goal, scored by Sinton, which was the culmination of a four-man move across Coventry's goal initiated by Sheringham. What Iversen —

who, incidentally, will have to complete his national service in the near future — will assuredly give the club and the supporters is greater strength in attack.

Yet the impression remains that Francis, conversely a top-class player himself, prefers making the most of individuals of lesser talents as opposed to managing the superstars. This is laudable in itself, but is not necessarily what is required at a club of Tottenham's standing. Not when Arsenal are leading the FA Carling Premiership.

In coded language, Sheringham has emphasised to Francis that Tottenham should be looking to do more than consolidate. He himself had a splendid match, having a volleyed goal unluckily disallowed for offside and bringing an intuition and style to Tottenham's game.

Sheringham is who who scored Tottenham's first goal, which, if anything, looked more offside than the one that was disallowed. Coventry's equaliser, forced in by Whelan after Walker had beaten out Dublin's header, was barely deserved. Gordon Strachan, who has to succeed where Ron Atkinson, for all his managerial experience, could not, summarised their predicament. "We always seem to be chasing the game," he said.

Strachan has all too little time before relegation is imminent and the tumbrils start to roll.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S. Ogrzewiec — B. Barrow (sub: P. Toller, 70min), P. Williams, L. Dixon, B. Shaw — J. Salsgro, C. McAllister, N. Whelan, E. Jones (sub: R. Geraoui, 78) — D. Odian, D. Huxford.
TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR (4-4-3): I. Williams — S. Carr, S. Campbell, C. Gardnerwood, C. Wilson — R. Foy, D. Howley, A. Nansen (sub: J. Doolan, 81), A. Sinton — E. Sheringham, S. Iversen. Referee: G. Willard.

Time to give young talent a chance

I n a week when Liverpool unveiled plans for an £8 million soccer academy, youth football is once more high on the agenda. It is about time, because it is an important issue and increasingly so, and only now are we starting to get to grips with it in this country.

I was heartened by the news that Liverpool will boost the most advanced youth structure in England. Obviously, we are hoping that it will ensure the club's success in the future, but I do hope that other clubs will follow, because we need a stronger and broader base in our game.

It is an issue I have always taken an interest in. I am often cited as one of the successes of Liverpool's youth system, and I recognise that I am used as an example for other young players with coaching kids, too. I have taken several coaching clinics, and this week I went to Tithe Barn School in Stockport to take a look at how the youngsters are shaping up. I was impressed.

Some of the boys were as young as eight, but they had an energy and enthusiasm to be proud of, and great skills. And yet, in many ways, I don't believe the obvious love for the game by kids all over the country is being tapped as it might be.

Liverpool's academy will be based on the Ajax model, but too often in this country we are lagging behind other European nations when it comes to developing young players. Clubs all have policies, but they tend to work in isolation, without any real involvement in the schools. How many times do we hear

complaints that foreign players have better technique. But is it true?

We have players with outstanding technique, but maybe not enough professionals at a high level, and that could be connected to the fact that there is no structure bringing schools into the development chain. They have it in Holland, where club coaches are in regular contact with all schools and children from the age of about seven. Perhaps it is time for something similar to happen here.

Instead, we frequently don't even have school football teams any more. More and more you hear of under-resourced schools stopping their sports teams. It happened to me when I was at secondary school. For about three years we didn't have a team at all, and that seems common these days.

It is a shame, because if there was a recognised structure, starting in the schools at a young age, it could only

STEVE
McMANAMAN



on the need for a system overhaul

help our game. What happens now is fairly basic. Players are sent for trials on a hit-and-miss basis, usually just from certain schools. They have one chance, and that's it for a few years. It



McManaman passes on his skills to youngsters at Tithe Barn School in Stockport

McCoist's steel provides Rangers with cutting edge

AS IF it were not enough to be a prolific forward, Ally McCoist has also proved to be a master of disguise. Listening to his careful banter, one might suppose that the only leadership quality he possesses is the telegraphic ability that persuaded the BBC to give him the job of captain on A Question of Sport.

Leaping to that conclusion, however, carries a person bounding over the sort of distance normally achieved only by an Olympic triple jumper, so far removed is it from the truth. McCoist's features are always on the alert for the next joke, but the extent of the grin conceals the depth of the determination. He pursues remorselessness with a smile.

It is possible to count the precise number of occasions on which this fact ought to have registered. His brace, in the 4-3 win over Hibernian at Ibrox on Saturday, set a new post-war scoring record for league football in Scotland of 265 goals. The first 22 of them were banked with St Johnstone when he was still a teenager.

The only appointment McCoist is guaranteed to keep is the one that requires him to arrive in the six-yard box at precisely the right instant. "This is the earliest I've ever been late," he is supposed to have announced, proudly, when turning up for a club function only a little while after everyone else.

It is natural that he should

think time is elastic since McCoist, 34 and far from fit, continues to be vital to Rangers. The club could soon sign Sebastian Rozenthal from Universidad Catolica for £2 million, but the Chilean forward may prove to be the veteran's partner in the side rather than his replacement. After all, no youth from a distant land would be trusted to pump Rangers full of indefatigability, as McCoist did on Saturday.

Wearily after defeat by Ayrerrie and lacking at least five players who would usually be selected, the Ibrox side encountered a resolute performance from Hibernian and fell 2-1 behind. McCoist's goals, fine examples of the poacher's art, heaved Rangers

back into a 3-2 lead. Whether one describes him as pursuing a personal ambition or as fighting the club's cause is unimportant; the steelness with which he sets about his work is all that matters.

Its consequence is the eight-point lead Rangers now hold over Celtic in the Bell's Scottish League premier division. The advantage springs from the strength of purpose shown by McCoist and his teammates while enduring all the hyperbole and anxiety that surrounds the attempt to equal the record of nine successive championships held by their Glasgow rivals.

Celtic have simply buckled. A 2-1 defeat by Motherwell at Fir Park shamed Tommy Burns's team as much as it damaged them. The Lanarkshire side lost their goalkeeper, Scott Howie, with a suspected fracture of the cheekbone after 64 minutes and had to replace him with Jamie Dolan, a small midfielder whom the reference books claim to be 5ft 9in.

KEVIN
McCARRA



Scottish commentary

Motherwell were 1-0 ahead then and although Celtic eventually ground out an equaliser, Alex McLeish's team responded with a further goal, from Ian Ross, in the 89th minute. When examining Burns's labours since 1994, one sees a peculiar amalgam of vast improvements and great shortcomings. The quality of Celtic's squad has been enhanced and, until Saturday, not a single league match had been lost to anyone other than Rangers since May 1995.

On the other hand, Celtic have failed whenever presented with the kind of pivotal game that decides a championship and are turning into habitual losers of the Old Firm fixture. As Burns knows, inferiority to Rangers has always

been a sackable offence for men in his post, yet it is hard to tell how a swift resurgence can be organised.

After a brief squabble over squad bonuses and the long dispute concerning Pierre van Hooijdonk's contract, the impression has grown of a fractious and irresponsible club. The loss of Jackie McNamara, with a hamstring injury, is a further incitement to self-pity.

With Jorge Cadete summoned to join the Portugal squad and van Hooijdonk certain to be in the Holland party, Celtic may seek postponement of their matches against Kilmarnock and Raith Rovers this week. At this moment, however, the club's deepest yearning must be for a cancellation of the entire season.

Rob Hughes sees Barcelona, and an Englishman abroad, bow to the might of Madrid

Real power poses threat to Robson's reign in Spain

The euphoria that was Bobby Robson's a few short weeks ago, the relish in particular of being guardian to Ronaldo, arguably the world's greatest developing talent, left the English manager in Spain abruptly, deep into Saturday night.

When Real Madrid's marvellous second goal went in against his Barcelona team in the second half, Robson was slumped in the corner of the dugout — a man alone in a crowd of more than 100,000 at Real's Bernabeu Stadium, a man whose every response to what players young enough to be his grandchildren were doing was being monitored by five hundred million television viewers in 40 countries. This is what football managers call "pressure".

Many of those suffering souls who never grapple with anything more complicated than the English game would say that they would swap dugouts with the Durham miner's son for his million-pound salary. Little do they appreciate that one defeat, notably a 2-0 defeat to the imperial power from Madrid, quickens tempers in Catalonia, where Robson's task is, first and foremost, to defeat the enemy from the south.

He is trying something even more special. At 63, Robson seeks to conclude probably his final challenge by adding the Spanish league title to the championships he managed in Holland, with PSV Eindhoven, and in Portugal, with FC Porto. What does a manager, any manager, do when the opposition scores twice, and his own team shows the spirit to come back, strike the woodwork twice, and the footballing world sits in judgment? After a ten-hour build-up for this 144th encounter between Real and Barcelona, the rigour and order that Fabio Capello, released last summer by AC Milan, has so quickly ingrained into his side, were better than the liberalism that Robson allows his individuals, culled from Portugal, France, Romania and, of course, Brazil.

He needed something like British never-say-die spirit against Capello's equally cosmopolitan squad. He got it from Luis Enrique and Guardiola, but the mercenaries — fellows like Popescu, Figo and Giovanni — only seemed prepared to run so far. At that point the legs were run off them by players representing a club trying to see off a mountain of debt and simultaneously to recapture the honour of being called the best side in the world.

The goals, though so different in style, were claimed first by a Croat, and then a Montenegrin. After 24 minutes, Roberto Carlos, the Brazil left back, swung in a low, curling free kick. It was missed, negligently, by Luis Enrique and the Frenchman, Laurent Blanc, but even more negligent was to leave Davor Suker, a man already renowned for his predatory instincts. "This night is the biggest in the world after a World Cup," he had said. Suker, dark, lean and upright, finished with the stealth of a rifleman.

If that goal was harsh, given that Barcelona were then achieving the aim of possessing the ball and frustrating the Madrid aficionados, the second strike, four minutes into the second half, was pure class. It came with the smoothness, almost the indolence, with which seemingly every fan in this awesome, five-tiered stadium, peeled the silver foil off their ham sandwiches during the break. Zip, zip, zip — and zip again went the passes. Secretario, from Portugal, began the inspiration from right back. His pass to Hierro

volleyed with the instep. Hierro strode forward and released the ball from the centre circle. From there, the two former Yugoslavs, Suker and Mijatovic, worked on and off the ball, and joined with the surging Dutchman, Seedorf, to carve cunning openings in the Barcelona resistance in the space of split seconds.

It must have been almost a relief when those representing Catalonia saw the sheer brilliance, the toying with their defenders, and with the ball gently lobbed forward by Seedorf and artfully passed into the net by Mijatovic.

Where was Ronaldo, the Brazilian for whom Manchester United were allegedly paying £20 million? He was there, and how we knew it. Everybody was interviewing him, following him, praising and occupying him. The young man had his knee operated on long before his twentieth birthday; and he had this mammoth television audience dissecting, frame by frame, some of the astonishing dribbles.

Amazing two-footed technique and muscular might that make him the leading scorer in the Spanish league, with 13 goals in his first 16 games.

Whatever Mancunians may wish, he is the property of Barcelona, whose response to even a sniff of a bid was to offer him another half a million pounds on his £1.3 million salary. Would Manchester offer Ronaldo's family the Mediterranean climate of Barcelona? Would they find a villa as luxurious as this young genius's family enjoys rent-free? Would Nike, his

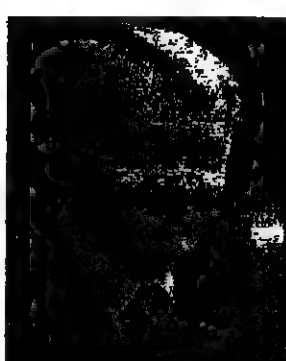
other paymaster to the tune of £750,000 per annum, want him transferred to the city of Umbro? Business interwoven with sport.

Not just because Ronaldo's head is shaved, not just because he has a fully developed and imposing build, he appears quite manly, and certainly undisturbed by the clamour. Outside, as youths not far short of his age attempted to climb the giant towers of the stadium, Ronaldo confirmed that he is flattered by Manchester United's interest, flattered by comparisons to Cruyff and Pelé, but said: "I am happy where I am. I have a long way to travel for Barcelona and for Brazil. I want to win the Spanish title and the World Cup, and I think both are possible."

From the youth to the men who bought him. A harsh observer will have seen how grey and forlorn, how apparently old, Robson looked in his stillness, compared with Capello. "Capello has demonstrated his class tonight," Luis Fernandez, the former France international, who was one of a great phalanx of managers and coaches drawn to "the game of the century", said.

Robson, even in defeat, showed his defiance. He argued that his players had created opportunities; that, even two goals down, they had shown spirit. This man, who managed England in the frenzy of the Azteca Stadium with its 114,000 audience, who had taken Ipswich Town through a 0-0 draw against Real Madrid decades ago, insisted: "Defeat tonight had nothing to do with the atmosphere. Sure, it was electric, fantastic. But these players of mine are internationals. Their performance today, and for the rest of this season, is up there with Real Madrid... and I tell you we will be very much closer to them when we meet again, at our place, towards the end of the season."

Closer than first and second? History, the whole defiance of the Catalanian people, demands something higher than closer. They will be numero uno, or Robson will be retired.



'Robson was slumped in the dugout, a man alone in a vast crowd'



Ronaldo feels the full weight of Secretario's tackle during the summit meeting in Spain

FA CUP: CAMBRIDGE THE LATEST TO SUFFER AT THE HANDS OF VAUXHALL CONFERENCE TEAM

Dismissal pegs back Enfield

Enfield 1
Peterborough United 1

By NICK SICESEMANIK

THE sight of footballers kissing is nothing new; managers however, are another matter. But then George Borg, of Enfield, (the kisser) and Barry Fry, of Peterborough United, (the kissed) are something of a mutual admiration society. "I've worked for him, I've played for him, I love him to death; he's great," Borg said of his mentor after the drawn FA Cup second-round game at the Isis League club's Southbury Road ground on Saturday. Fry was only slight

less effusive about Borg, once captain under his management at Maidstone, the bonhomie was probably fuelled partly by relief on both sides that they were still in the competition. Either team could have been eliminated during a frantic final minute, which encapsulated the drama of the Cup, even if the match as a whole did not. First it seemed Peterborough must score the winner in a scramble inches from Enfield's goal line. Then the ball was hacked clear to Arnon, who set off on a blistering 50-yard run that was only stopped by Griemink's dive at his feet.

"Although we got in good positions, Pape didn't have a shot to save. Enfield fought like tigers, which you expect from George's team, and deserved to get a replay." Such was Fry's verdict as a manager; and in his other role, as owner? "I need the replay — I need the money."

Borg is also looking forward to the return at London Road. "The players deserve another crack at it," he said. "We'll be prepared and we'll give it a go. Barry's got some quality players even though they are not doing well in the league. Knowing him as I do, he'll turn them round and I hope that will happen after we beat them at Peterborough."

Peterborough United (4-4-2) B. Griemink — G. West, A. Edwards, M. Scott, S. Clarke — R. Williams, M. Ebdon (sub: D. Morrison, 80), D. Payne, S. Houghton (sub: A. Goodwin, 80) — J. Cassidy, M. Cardwell (sub: G. Greville, 79). Referee: G. Hooley.



Borg bonhomie

Walker breaks the deadlock to send Woking marching on to glory

Cambridge United 0
Woking 2

By WALTER GUMMITE

THIS time, Clive Walker admitted, his match-winning stroke of genius had a hint of luck.

Woking's FA Cup second-round tie against Cambridge United at the Abbey Stadium on Saturday was, he felt, heading for a draw unless somebody "tried something a little bit different." Given unexpected room 25 yards from goal outside the top left-hand corner of the Cambridge penalty area, Walker floated over a high, hanging cross to the far post.

He had reasoned that Scott Barrett, the Cambridge goalkeeper, had dealt with his previous couple of crosses — flatter, quicker and aimed at the middle. "I thought I'd hit the ball long to see if I could find Darran Hay or someone beyond the far post," Walker said. "When I looked up, I thought, 'if it bends, it's going to go in.'"

Send the ball did, and brushed off the post into the net. The goal, in the 74th minute, might have been blessed with luck but it was the kind earned by calculated premeditation from a player who is a past master at trying for every little bit going.

Nor was Woking fortunate to win. The Vauxhall Conference side did not even have to endure the 80-minute rear-guard action needed for their 1-0 first-round replay win at Millwall. Within ten minutes of Walker's goal, Wye and Walker combined down the right. Hay fired a shot that was blocked and Taylor charged up to sweep the ball past Barrett.

Cambridge had, in Hyde, yellow-booted and blue-mitted, and Preece, rather less ostentatious, a potent midfield combination. Batty, in the Woking goal, however, proved himself alert to every danger. "He's the best goalkeeper in non-League football. Magnificent — is that good enough?" Walker said, turning with a grin to his team-mate.

Equally impressive was Foster, a central defender signed for £9,000 from Telford United, whose speed and reading of the game brought him back to make a sliding interception to rob Beall and a flying header to deny Kyd. "He's only 21," Geoff Chapple, the Woking manager, said. "His worth at least £100,000 more than the £9,000. I'm going to have trouble keeping him. I've already got clubs looking at him."

It is keeping hold of a rather more senior figure that is his immediate concern — a 39-year-old whom he compared to Bobby Charlton — bald pate, two good feet, ambassadorial qualities and all. Walker has been approached by Rushden and Diamonds to become their player-coach. Under contract with Woking, he insisted the decision is not his. "It's up to the management committee — the ball is in their court," he said.

The committee, the 11-strong decision-making or decision-muddling body, take your pick, that runs the club meets tonight. Chapple said: "I don't think he'll leave. He enjoys it here. The last three or four



Walker approached



FA CUP

seasons have been good to him. He's made a lot of friends. The grass is not always greener. It's not just about the money they can offer."

The Kidderminster Harriers manager certainly hopes so. Chapple revealed that Graham Allner, before leading his team to the 4-1 win over Dover Athletic, that took them 12 points clear of Woking in the Conference, sent a fax "hoping you stay in the Cup as long as possible."

Cambridge United (3-5-2) S. Barrett — J. Cassidy, M. Joseph, D. Greville — P. Preece, R. Hyde, D. Francis (sub: Thompson, 80), M. Beall, A. Hayes (sub: R. Turner, 80) — M. Kyd, J. Barrett. Woking (3-4-1-2) B. Batty — T. Howard, K. Brown, S. Foster — S. Wye, S. Thompson, J. Jones, R. Taylor — S. Steele (sub: A. Ellis, 82) — D. Newbold, J. Hunter, 80, C. Walker. Referee: G. Pol.

chance of stopping either goal. Boreham Wood came within six minutes of forcing a replay against Luton Town at Kenilworth Road, but it can go horribly wrong for the minnows. St Albans were swamped 9-2 by Bristol City at Ashton Gate, where Agostino scored four, while Ashford Town conceded five goals in the second half to Watford at Vicarage Road.

For Brentford, there are a few hours left to cling to the prospect of a preferred third-round pairing with Manchester United; for Sudbury Town, thoughts must turn to night-havens and the forthcoming delights of Merthyr and Mildenhall. Sudbury had heroism by the tractor-load, but out the Suffolk side went, 3-1. Sometimes, bravery is just not enough.

West Bromwich Albion .2
Bolton Wanderers 2

Bolton pay the penalty for Branagan error

By RICHARD HOBSON

A THICK fog lingered over the West Midlands yesterday, but at The Hawthorns the promotion credentials of Bolton Wanderers remained clearly visible. All good teams chisel out results when they are some way off their best, and that was the case as Bolton extended their lead at the top of the Nationwide League first division to three points against a West Bromwich Albion side that overcame a number of injuries to display a tenacity that enabled them to twice come back from behind.

However, Bolton were not entirely happy with their afternoon's work. But for a moment of indiscipline from Keith Branagan, the goalkeeper, they would have completed their fourth away win of the season and, remarkably, only their second in the last 21 encounters between these sides here. The visitors were 2-1 up with 12 minutes left when, needlessly, Branagan pushed Paul Peschisoldo after catching a cross from Paul Groves. The penalty was awarded and Taylor, a substitute, duly converted, although not before both Branagan and Blake had been booked by Kevin Lynch, the referee, for dissent.

In all, six players were shown the yellow card in what was, at times, an unedifying spectacle. Just three minutes had gone when Dobby, of Albion, playing against his former club, clattered into Blake and should have been dismissed, regardless of the early stage of proceedings. Later, Taggart, the Bolton defender, was guilty of a similarly gruesome challenge on Peschisoldo near the corner flag.

Bolton have led the division since the middle of September. The departure of Sasa Curcic has been compensated by the arrival of Per Frandsen, who might not possess the maverick individual qualities of the Serb but fits into the overall pattern more easily.

There was an element of fortune in the way that he found himself in a position to put Bolton ahead, after 37 minutes, but his finish was as cool as the temperature. A pass to McGinlay rebounded back into his path off the

fortunate Smith and he curled a shot away from Crichton from 14 yards.

Colin Todd, the Bolton manager, warned his players at half-time to be more cautious in the way they moved forward and blamed bad positioning for the manner in which Peschisoldo was allowed to level two minutes after the resumption. He met a through-ball from Sneekes unopposed and continued unchanged before tucking his shot beyond Branagan.

Todd claims that he is no longer interested in signing Mike Newell, the Birmingham striker, and can have no qualms with the effort of either McGinlay or Blake. Indeed, a

Schools sport 36

good work-rate was apparent throughout a side generally noted for flair rather than strength.

Had they been spared that rush of blood by Branagan, Bolton may have eased in success, because Todd felt that they were at their most comfortable after Fairclough, punishing a mistake by Agnew, had put them 2-1 ahead. Then again, television replays suggested that Albion should have won a second penalty in injury time, when a cross from Coldicott struck Taggart on the arm.

"We cannot keep shooting ourselves in the foot," Todd said. "Keith had a good afternoon in general, but it was a moment of stupidity. We have to be more professional in a situation like that."

WEST BROMWICH ALBION (3-5-2) P. Crichton — J. Dobby, P. Agnew, D. Burgess — P. Houghton, R. Snodgrass (sub: S. Coldicott, 80), P. Groves, I. Hamilton, D. Smith — P. Peschisoldo, A. Hunt (sub: R. Taylor, 71). BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2) K. Branagan — G. Burgess, C. Fairclough, G. Taggart, J. Phillips — D. Lee (sub: M. Johnston, 79), P. Frandsen, A. Thompson, S. Solari — J. McGinlay, N. Blake. Referee: K. Lynch.

AA

JOIN NOW FROM JUST £39

To join, call free now on **0800 444 445**

and ask for extension 8196. Immediate cover available.

Packers prepare to come in from the cold

Frank Emmert Jr is not a nationally known figure, but he is a celebrity in these parts. His fame has lasted for more than a year now, since the day when the light plane in which he was a passenger crashed a couple of hundred miles from here, at a place called Stevens Point. The doctors who treated him said his life had been saved because he was wearing a giant piece of cheese on his head. The cheese, you see, was there as a sign of allegiance to Green Bay Packers, the team from small town, blue-collar America that is threatening to rip the Super Bowl away from big city slickers such as Dallas Cowboys and San Francisco 49ers this year and inject a rare shot of sentimentality and romance into American football.

'Team is the town's only source of pride'

Packers supporters glory in the nickname "Cheeseheads" because of the prevalence of dairy farming in Wisconsin. Emmert's escape, a result of the cheese cushioning the impact when the plane crashed on its way back from a Packers game in Cleveland, merely confirmed

the opinion here that being a Packers fan really is a matter of life and death.

It only takes a few hours in this town — population 96,456 — that huddles around an inlet off Lake Michigan, about 200 miles north of Chicago near the Canadian border, to realise quite how interwoven in the fabric of everyday life the team is. The degree of intensity of support it attracts is unerring. It is a kind of sporting commitment that is a social phenomenon.

Yesterday nearly 60,000 supporters braved sub-zero temperatures for more than three hours to watch the Packers entertain Denver Broncos in a game many predicted was a preview of next month's Super Bowl. Led by one of the best quarterbacks in the league, Brett Favre, and the fearsome defensive end, Reggie White, the Packers have already qualified for the end of season play-offs.

But they are not passing fad. Support for them pervades the community in a way that puts even the passion of, say, Newcastle

Oliver Holt discovers small town supporters in Green Bay dreaming of being big cheeses in American football again

United supporters in the shade. Everywhere in Green Bay, men and women, young and old, traditional and trendy, wear the Packers' green and yellow shirts, sweatshirts, anoraks and leather jackets. Manchester United have got nothing on this kind of market penetration.

There are other signs, too. At one of the only two cinemas in the downtown area, they are showing *A Time To Kill* on one screen and old Packers games on the other. And outside the Holiday Inn, the best hotel in town, three flags flutter: the Stars and Stripes, the Wisconsin State emblem and the Packers insignia.

Part of it, perhaps, is that the Packers are the town's only source of pride, the only thing that puts a timber-trading town dominated by paper mills, its packing company and its port on the map; the only thing that draws attention to it. It goes without saying that there are no other professional sports franchises here. The next best thing

after the Packers are minor league ice hockey games between Green Bay Gamblers and teams such as Fargo Ice Sharks.

But there is more to it than that. Somehow, the Packers have come to embody, not just to Green Bay

people but to Americans in general, a living ideal of the way sport used to be in this country.

They are an anachronism in American sport, a small-town club that has survived alongside giant concerns such as the Cowboys. They are the only professional sports team in the country that is publicly owned, run by the Packer Corporation which comprises about 200 shareholders, many from the surrounding area.

These things have guaranteed them their status as America's favourite underdog, the team forever trying, against the odds, to recapture the glorious days of 30 years ago, the days of the Ice Bowl here at Lambeau Field, when the Packers beat the Cowboys in the coldest game in National Football League history, the days when they and their legendary coach, Vince Lombardi, left their imprint on the nation forever by winning the first two Super Bowls.

Those days, of course, coincided

with the television explosion and the first glimpse many Americans had of professional football was of men fighting against the elements as well as their opponents. The first words from the coach they heard were not clichés, but the rousing moral exhortations of Lombardi.

"Unless a man believes in himself," Lombardi said, "and makes a total commitment to his career and puts everything he has into it, his mind, his body and his heart, what is his life worth to him?" After he died, they named the Super Bowl trophy after him for speeches like that.

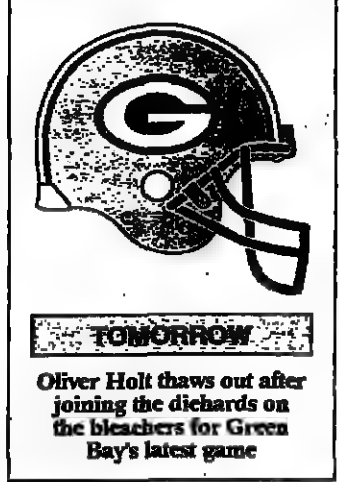
Since Lombardi left in 1969, the Packers have never had another realistic shot at winning the Super Bowl, but this year it might be their time. Last week television news crews descended en masse on Green Bay, all wanting to explore the Packer phenomenon.

They were told little snippets about the peculiarities of life in the frozen north, where parts of the Bay are already thick with ice. There are so few African-Ameri-

cans in the community, the coach, Mike Holmgren said, that a barber is hired to come up from Milwaukee once a week to cut the hair of the black players who make up about half the team.

Twice a week, "soul food" like yams, fried chicken, chitlins and greens is flown in to make the players feel more at home. A Director of Family Programs has also been appointed to try to make it easier for new players to settle in, although one cannot help feeling it is so isolated here. It is the type of place that would make Emerson's wife embrace Middlesbrough with open arms.

The players, almost to a man, say they love it here, that the local people have showed them nothing but kindness and affection, that the lack of distractions has brought them all closer together and kept them out of trouble. "If people need a larger place, a New York City type of place," Holmgren said, "then Green Bay is not for them." Maybe not, but it is still a cheese head's idea of heaven.



Oliver Holt thaws out after joining the diehards on the bleachers for Green Bay's latest game

CYCLING

Ball pursues initial steps to distinction

BY PETER BRYAN

THEY share the same initials and Chris Ball is hoping that, one day, he will emulate Chris Boardman, Britain's pursuit world champion and record-holder. Like his idol, Ball made a speedy start to his racing career as a junior. He set a British record for 25 miles in 1992 and also won the national track pursuit championship that year.

He has already been dubbed "CB2" but maintains that if he can win the British pursuit title, then target the 2000 Olympic Games in Sydney, he will be happy. This year, after not competing for most of 1995 because of a torn Achilles tendon, Ball has been able again to show the promise of his potential. He was in the winning Harlow Velodrome squad that took the national team pursuit title and on Saturday, representing London, he had an outstanding pursuit victory in the Key 103 Euroleague in Manchester.

Five riders started 50 metres apart on the 250-metre track and Ball and Ronny Lauke, of Dortmund, made short work of catching their Amsterdam, Manchester and Cardiff opponents. In the last circuit of the 12-lap race, Ball closed to

within 15 metres of the German to win with a fast time of 3min 27.73sec. "I was easing the pace because there were other events for me later on the programme," he said.

Ball's victory gave London third place overall in the competition, but Dortmund, with 36 points, and Amsterdam, on 30, were convincingly superior squads.

The availability of Britain's first permanent indoor track has taught the 22-year-old Ball a lot. To compete regularly throughout a 12-month season, he will need what he calls "recovery breaks" which he plans after the national championships next year and other leading events, including the first five Premier Calendar road races.

Roger Hammond added the South of England cyclo-cross championship at Dover yesterday to the London Open title he won last week, dominating the ten-mile race from the start. He finished 1min 55sec ahead of Andrew Taylor, with Brian Curtis a further 30 seconds behind.

Matthew Guy retained his Midlands title over 14 miles at Derby, beating Dean Barnett and Steve Knight, champion on six previous occasions.



Seeing is believing for Gladishiva at Vail and she duly celebrates her unexpected super giant slalom victory. Photograph: Ed Andriesski

Gladishiva again favoured by late start

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

IN THE most surprising event of the still-young World Cup season, Svetlana Gladishiva, of Russia, raced from far back in the pack at Vail, Colorado, on Saturday afternoon to win a women's super giant slalom and claim the first victory in her ten-year career. Starting 32nd, Gladishiva, 25, from Livov, recorded 1min 17.76sec to snatch victory from Pernilla Wiberg, from Sweden, who already had accepted congratulations for what seemed like being her second victory of the winter in the discipline.

Wiberg settled for second place in 1min 17.97sec, while Carole Montillet, of France, another late starter at 29th, claimed third in 1min 18.11sec. Katja

Seizinger, of Germany, the overall World Cup leader, finished ninth, her worst result of the season, but leads Wiberg in the overall standings, 414pts to 353pts.

"I can't believe I won," a beaming Gladishiva said at the finish, a moment after letting out a wild scream when she saw the scoreboard. Later — and calmer — she said: "Not bad, huh?"

After some 27 inches of fresh snow fell over the previous two days, the top racers scrambled to select advantageous starting positions. Gladishiva, though, who had little choice in when she would race, may have been helped by her late start, for the sun had left the course, making it colder and faster.

Although she had never finished higher than thirteenth in a World Cup super giant slalom, she had a precedent of late-start success in the event. At the Winter Olympics in Lillehammer, in 1994, she took the silver medal after starting 35th.

Gladishiva surprised nobody more than herself. "I didn't expect even to do well and I never had the feeling I was skiing so fast," she said of her run on a course that favoured downhill specialists.

Even after her apparent victory had disappeared, Wiberg was happy with her result and her strongest start in eight World Cup seasons. "In super-G, nothing is finished and the tradition of Vail is that the course holds, even improves," she said. "My goal is to win

the slalom championship. Anything after that is extra."

Like Gladishiva, Montillet was ecstatic with her result. "I expected nothing like this," she said.

The super giant slalom was the second stage of a unique double race day necessitated when a snowstorm pushed the downhill, scheduled for Friday, back a day. Renate Goetschl, of Austria, won the downhill event in the morning. Similarly, the World Cup season's opening men's super giant slalom was cancelled yesterday because of a heavy overnight snowfall and poor visibility at Whistler Mountain, British Columbia. The downhill was cancelled there on Saturday.

Weekend results, page 39

IN BRIEF

Hendry's path is blocked by Morgan

STEPHEN HENDRY will attempt to apply the finishing touches to another highly successful year at the German Open, which gets underway at the British Army base in Osnabruck this afternoon (Phil Yates writes).

As usual Hendry is the ante-post favourite to pocket the £40,000 first prize. In the last 16 Hendry, who also holds an impregnable lead at the head of the provisional world rankings, faces Darren Morgan, an opponent to whom he has lost only once in 13 meetings.

Stojko's title

Ice Hockey: Elvis Stojko, the former world champion, of Canada, took the leading place in the free skating event to win the men's singles title for a second year running at the NHK Trophy figure skating competition in Kadoma, Japan yesterday. Stojko turned in a near-perfect performance in the free programme.

Eagles swoop

Rugby League: Sheffield Eagles have signed Steve Edmed, the Australian prop, from North Queensland Cowboys. He spent nine years with Balmuir before joining the Cowboys for the 1996 season, was player of the year at the Townsville club and the players' choice as player of the year.

Darragh happy

Equestrianism: Paul Darragh, of Ireland, took a big step towards the Volvo World Cup final next year when he won the European League qualifier in Seville. Riding Cera I, he clinched the eighth of 15 qualifiers with the fastest of three clear rounds.

Record win

Rugby union: British Steel (Preston) set a Welsh league points scoring record as they beat Ogmore Vale 131-5. They scored 21 tries in their Division 8A Central match — seven of them from Jason Lowndes, the centre.

HOCKEY: PREMIER DIVISION LEADERS SUFFER SETBACKS AS FEMALE COUNTERPARTS AGREE TO JOIN FORCES

Cannock draw small comfort Women vote to join with men

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

CANNOCK, Southgate and Old Loughtonians, the top three teams in the premier division, all suffered setbacks as the National League officially went into its winter recess yesterday. Cannock, however, regained the leadership, despite a 2-2 draw with Guildford.

Southgate lost 2-1 away to Teddington, who profited from an increased work rate in the second half. The Southgate defence had earlier lost Duthie, who suffered a shoulder injury in a collision and was taken to hospital.

Gibbons, a former Teddington player, had given Southgate the lead in the twelfth minute. Nicklin equalised from a short corner four minutes later, with the winning goal from Conway coming eight minutes from time.

Southgate saved the day for Cannock in their away match against Guildford. Jennings converted a short corner in the seventh minute to put Guildford in front, but the advantage was cancelled out three minutes later when Crutchley converted a penalty.

Results and tables

stroke. A well-taken goal by Garrard in the twelfth minute restored the lead for Guildford, who then had a goal by Jennings from a short corner disallowed because the ball had not been stopped before the final shot was taken.

Southgate will have a chance to redress the balance when they play Teddington again on Saturday and

Cannock will look for victory when they entertain Guildford the next day. Both are rearranged matches brought about by postponements.

Reading enjoyed a 2-2 away victory against Old Loughtonians in a hard fought match. Ashdown converted a short corner in the 22nd minute to put Reading in front, but Dover equalised in similar fashion four minutes later. Two quick goals — Pearn from open play, and Slay from a short corner — gave Reading a firm grip on the match. A confrontation between Morrison, of Old Loughtonians, and Ashdown led to both players being temporarily suspended, before Thompson reduced Reading's lead in the 57th minute. The result pushed Reading into third position behind Cannock and Southgate.

MONICA PICKERSGILL, president of the All-England Women's Hockey Association, admitted to a huge sense of relief after revealing that the AEWHA had followed their male counterparts in voting to dissolve the association and form a single governing body.

After the 84 per cent vote in favour by the men's Hockey Association on Wednesday, the AEWHA gained a 93.5 per cent mandate in their postal vote to ensure that the sport will move into the next century as the English Hockey Association. The existing bodies will dissolve on May 31 next year and the new association will be formed on June 1 1997, and be based at the new national stadium in Milton Keynes.

Pickersgill admitted that she was disappointed, but not surprised, that only 21 per cent of the membership had exer-

BY A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT

cised their voting rights on such a crucial issue, adding: "I still believe that the majority of women were very, very positive about what is at stake and, of course, some were a little sad about dissolving our association."

"I'm delighted that we made such a clear decision and feel excited that we can now move ahead and carry the game forward for the benefit of all those involved in English hockey."

The chief executive of the Hockey Association, Stephen Baines, said that forming one body would not only satisfy the International Hockey Federation's wish that countries either unite or have an umbrella union by the year 2000, but that the move also opened up the promise of extra funding from the Sports Council and the National Lottery.

He said: "We'll be able to improve in numerous areas, but hopefully will also be able to expand the commercial department and begin signing up sponsors. We have the best facilities in the world from our national stadium right down to all the artificial surfaces at the clubs. The game couldn't be better placed for the future."

MESH TECHNIQUE HERNIA REPAIR
Performed as a day case under local anaesthetic by Specialist Hernia Surgeons.
Fast, effective treatment ensures rapid return to normal.
Internet: www.mtc.com/hernia
The London Hernia Centre
0171-328 1228

THE TIMES CROSSWORDS FOR CHRISTMAS

SPECIAL OFFER:
£1 OFF ANY THREE BOOKS PURCHASED

Due to increased costs a small handling charge (circa 25p per item) is included in the prices below for all UK and EU customers. Rest of the World add £1 per item Sterling or US\$ only (£1=US\$1.65)

BOOKS at £6.25 (Penguin) (240 puzzles)
The Times Concise Crosswords - Book 2
NEW BOOKS at £5.25 (Times Books)

The 1st Omnibus Book Sunday Times Crosswords
The 2nd Omnibus Book of The Times Crosswords
The 3rd book of The Times Jumbo Crosswords

BOOKS at £4.25 (Penguin)
The Times Crosswords - Books 10,11,12,13
BOOKS at £3.25 (Times Books)

The Times Two Crosswords - Book 4 & New Book 5
The Times Quiz Book 1996 £4.75
Crossword Solvers Dictionary £11.95 (UK only)

NEW Collins Thesaurus
(Revised edition) £14.99 (UK only)

The Times Computer Crosswords
by David Akenhead

Including optional HELP levels and TEAM OPTION on 3.5" diskette (circa 60 crosswords on each)
(NOTE: numbers bracketed indicate number of diskettes)

The Times Crosswords - 1 to 19 (19)
Omnibus Editions - 1 & 2 (2-2)
The Times Concise Crosswords - 3 to 6 (4)
The Times Two Crosswords - 1 to 5 (5)
The Times Jumble Puzzles 1932-1987 - (1)
The Sunday Times Titles (various - 21)

PRICES OF SOFTWARE (INC.VAT):		
No of diskettes:	Acorn RISC-Os	New Super Windows
	IBM MS-DOS	version for IBM PCs
	(please specify)	
1	£10.25	£15.00
2	£14.99	£22.00
3	£19.00	£28.00
4	£22.00	£33.00

Please send cheques or postal orders (no credit cards)
payable to Adams Ltd, 51 Manor Lane, London SE13 5QW
Enquiries: 0181 852 4575 (24 hours) Delivery up to 8 days (UK)

JUDO

Britain set to invest in new crop of talent

By JOHN GOODBODY

BRITISH judo woke from its Olympic nightmare on Saturday. A new generation of talented young fighters began the arduous struggle towards the 2000 Games when they competed in the national championships in Bath.

The lessons of Atlanta have yet to be digested. An inquiry into why, after six consistently successful Olympics, Britain failed to win a judo medal this summer will be published later this month.

Colin McIver, the Scottish national coach, who chaired the investigation, said yesterday: "It will advocate radical changes. The system has not worked. However, it is important that rash decisions should not be made and it may take a few months for a proper system to be introduced."

Time is important. The Sports Council want to see proper planning for Lottery funding for individual competitors become available in March. There is little doubt that judo, and a large number of other Olympic sports, are going to benefit enormously from a properly-funded structure.

Young fighters, such as Winston Gordon, will be among the beneficiaries. Only 20, he climaxed an outstanding year, which has included a European junior bronze medal, by winning the middle-weights on Saturday with the dramatic leg throw that slammed Kevin Lynch on his back.

Gordon took the title in the absence of Ryan Birch, the former European champion, who, like most of the Olympic team, preferred to miss the event.

Most of those that did compete understandably were jaded. Julian Davies, a featherweight, who came second in the European championships, lost to Simon Moss, who looked a solid prospect.

The only member of the Atlanta team to win a title was the 32-year-old Joyce Heron, the Scottish bantamweight, who will provide proven ability for a new generation to pit their skills against.

"I'm not getting any younger but I still enjoy competing," Heron said. "However, I know fighting internationally is a different kettle of fish. I'll just take it as it comes."

Nevertheless, she was not the oldest competitor on Saturday. That was light heavyweight Terry Watt, who will be 50 this month. He exercises six times a week and battled through to seventh place.

He competed in the European championships in 1969. In 1972, he represented Ireland in the Olympics and won a bronze medal in the world universities championships. His continuing dedication was an example to everyone. As the Japanese, Hagakure Bushido, wrote: "There is no end to training. Once you begin to feel you are a master, you are no longer on the way you are to follow."

Ayr pay dearly for early injury as Nottingham win ice hockey cup



Cupolo is denied by a desperate block from Robins, the Nottingham goaltender, as another Ayr attack crashes on the Sheffield ice. Photograph: Victoria Matthews

Panthers play role of party animals

Christopher Irvine discovers supporters taking centre stage in a musical revival

In one sport at least, the Mexican Wave is old hat. Crowd participation in ice hockey is now a choreographed art form, sometimes more entertaining than the game itself. In that respect, its administrators need to get to grips with its miscreants. For example, Ryan Kimmus, Ayr's Canadian defenceman, was released by the Superleague to play in the final mid-way through a six-game league ban for attacking Hilton Ruggles, of Manchester Storm, but it was an astonishing, misguided decision and removed the option of making any immediate, enforceable disciplinary measures had the match on Saturday not been so good-tempered. Kimmus,

Unlike North America, it is sweat on the ice rather than blood that people want to see, even if Britain's game has not been spared the sport's darker side. In that respect, its administrators need to get to grips with its miscreants. For example, Ryan Kimmus, Ayr's Canadian defenceman, was released by the Superleague to play in the final mid-way through a six-game league ban for attacking Hilton Ruggles, of Manchester Storm, but it was an astonishing, misguided decision and removed the option of making any immediate, enforceable disciplinary measures had the match on Saturday not been so good-tempered. Kimmus,

was on his best behaviour and a total of three two-minute sin-binnings in an hour of high-speed collision represents, in ice hockey terms, a clean contest. As if it were possible, the game is speeding up, so perhaps the time to knock lumps from one another is diminishing as standards in a slimmed-down, eight-team Superleague increase. Improvements and the breaking down of all barriers to foreign players, who account for three-quarters of those playing

Nottingham are struggling in the Superleague, but when the imposing Derek Laxdal bore down on the unfortunate Sven Rampf, in the Ayr goal, the game was up after just 29 seconds. Two more goals slipped beneath Rampf in a disastrous first period before he succumbed to a groin strain. Colum Cavilla's net-minding improved matters, notwithstanding the illegal, side-footed fourth Nottingham goal by Greg Hadden. Kitted supporters tried to intimidate the Panthers' bench, but Jiri Lala's final score for Ayr was merely a gesture as time expired.

The jubilant Panthers, in celebration of their second Benson and Hedges title in three years, thumped down a jargon of Veuve Clicquot before answering questions. Mike Blaisdell, their coach, was not going to remind them about their match the next night. "We got a good game out of guys who had a slump lately," he said. "We were able to add depth to our line-up and we showed we're a different team to the one we've been the last few weeks."

The Ayr story is that of ice hockey in a nutshell, from bust to boom. It is not so long ago that rusting padlocks were removed from the Ayr Centrium. In three months, the Eagles have built an audience of more than 2,000 - bigger than Ayr United at the top of the Bell's Scottish League second division. Nonetheless, only false dawns outnumber the relapses of ice hockey in Britain, the glam-rock reformation being just the latest, although the outward signs are healthy.

In the tradition of sports dreamt up by Britons - a claim Canada, naturally, disputes - this country has been skating on thin ice since an Olympic Games gold medal in 1936. Yet Great Britain are two wins away from the final qualifying stages of a first Olympic appearance since 1948. No other national team could rely on such fervent support, provided the music is right. Late on Saturday, Ayr supporters could still muster a Macarena in defeat.

Lynch may rue selection mistakes

By NORMAN DE MESSQUITA

AN ICE hockey coach probably makes more decisions in the course of one evening than the average cricket captain has to make in a month. The most crucial, as in cricket, often concerns who should be playing and Jim Lynch, of the Ayr Scottish Eagles, had such a choice to make before the Benson and Hedges Cup final in Sheffield on Saturday. He got it wrong.

His No 1 goaltender, Sven Rampf, had been in wonderful form, but had a niggling groin problem. Having to change direction quickly in

the first minute of the game, he tweaked the injury and Nottingham Panthers had the lead after only 29 seconds. A crazy deflection gave the Panthers a second goal in the twelfth minute, but although the Eagles pulled one back, it was 3-1 to Nottingham with only a quarter of the game gone and, two minutes from the end of the first period, Rampf, having been beaten by three of only ten shots he had faced, bowed to the inevitable.

His replacement, Colum Cavilla, could not have played much better and was named the Ayr man of the

match at the end of the evening, but not before he had conceded two goals. The first of these proved how high the odds were stacked against Ayr. Even without the advantage of video replay, used in the National Hockey League in North America but not in this country, it was clear to the television viewer that Greg Hadden kicked the puck into the net.

Lynch might also regret playing Alan Schuler, who had not appeared since breaking his jaw in the semi-final six weeks ago. Schuler seemed to have problems with the pace of the game and

it was his mistake that led to the third Nottingham goal, just when the Eagles seemed to be coming back into the game towards the end of the first period.

Jiri Lala did give Ayr some hope when he made the score 5-3 with more than 12 minutes remaining, but they could not find a way through the well-organised Nottingham defence again.

Thus Mike Blaisdell, the Nottingham coach, showed how good he is at preparing his team for an important one-off occasion. Now he is hoping to repeat such form in the league.

Results, page 39

NETBALL

England seeking boost from youth

By LOUISE TAYLOR

SPORTING grazed knees and ponytails, English schoolgirls have played netball since the First World War and, superficially at least, the game today seems reassuringly similar. In reality, though, the sport is adjusting to the demands of the 1990s and confronting a number of issues in the process. There is sexual equality, with males increasingly playing, particularly in primary schools. Then there is violence, with a proposal to introduce football-style red and yellow cards. There is even amateurism, with the England netball team theoretically eligible for National Lottery-funded subsistence grants of up to £28,000, which would enable the players to turn professional.

Perhaps more significantly, the wind of change is also gusting through the England squad as Liz Broomhead, the national coach, aims to improve the team's world ranking - the squad appears to have been stuck in fourth place for ever.

Moving forward, however, sometimes entails a step back and this is how the recent 3-0 Test series defeat to a touring Jamaica side is being seen at Jamaica House, the game's Herfordshire base. That series saw the senior debuts of five players promoted from

the Under-21s: Chantal Mortimer, a student at Cambridge University, as goalkeeper; Amanda Newton, a London sports shop assistant, at goal defence; Tracey Neville, the sister of Gary and Philip, the Manchester United footballers and a trainee primary school teacher, at goal attack; Lisa Stanley, a Sainsbury's checkout girl in Sunderland, at goal shooter; and Helen Lonsdale, a student at Salford University, at wing attack.

That quintet not only reflect the cross-section of women that play netball, they were also all part of the England youth side that won bronze at the world youth championships in Toronto last summer.

Their progression through the ranks has been fostered by Fiona Murtagh, the new England captain, who has replaced Kendra Slawinski. The latter may have retired, but she is now coaching the next generation of international netballers.

Several such protégées were in action during the monthly Inter-Counties League fixtures on Saturday. The season is still young but England's leading county, Essex, are already favourites for the title and catered to a 78-37 victory against Nottinghamshire.

Results, page 39

SAILING: OLYMPIC GAMES SILVER MEDAL-WINNER WITH THE WORLD AT HIS FEET OUTLINES HIS NEXT OBJECTIVES

Ainslie decides to stay with Laser

Edward Gorman on a yachtsman who is engagingly modest about his success

FOUR months ago Ben Ainslie gave the profile of yacht racing in this country an immeasurable boost. At 19 he was the youngest ever member of a Great Britain sailing team. He went on to become the youngest ever medal-winner, capturing a silver after a thrilling dog-fight with the world No 1 in the Laser class, Robert Scheidt, of Brazil.

Ainslie single-handedly put the sport on the front pages and made the biggest impact in the television coverage of sailing at the Games, introducing yacht racing to many who have never followed it before, among them many young girls and boys determined to follow in his wake.

Alongside him at the medal ceremony in Savannah were Britain's other success story at the Olympic regatta, John Merricks and Ian Walker, who won silver in the 470s, but it was clear even then that Ainslie's precocious talent had made him the feature of the Games for British yachting.

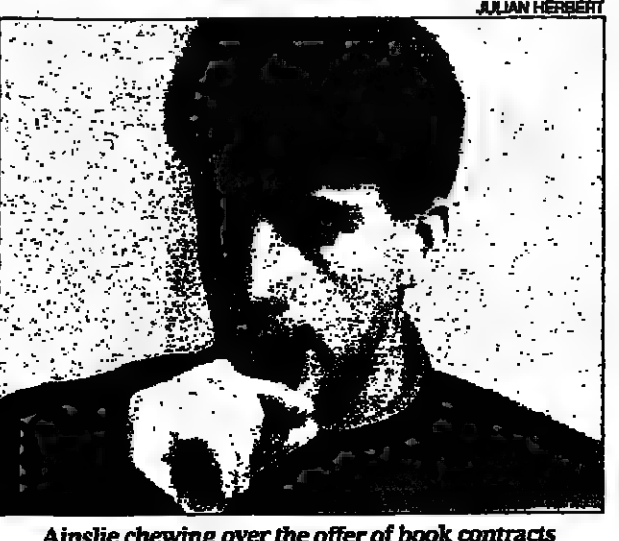
Since coming back Ainslie has been given various achievement awards and has been in demand on the children's television circuit. He has been offered book contracts, and his name has been mentioned - with or without his permission - by all sorts of people in yachting who want the shine of his medal on their latest project. Britain's fastest young

yachtsman has, however, got his feet firmly on the ground. Next season he has turned down the opportunity to join the crew of Merricks's Mumm 36 in the British Admiral's Cup team. He has turned down the chance to helm a Melges 24 on the European circuit, as well as numerous other sailing invitations.

Instead he is staying with his Laser, where his focus and ambition is as ferociously intense as at any time in the past 12 months. His first objective is to retain his European title next year in

Portugal and then win the world championships in Chile next October. That will mean another showdown with Scheidt, who has won the title twice already and is hunting a third. "It would be nice to beat him - I haven't beaten him before - it would be nice to sort that out," he said.

In the long run Ainslie's goal is gold in Lasers at the Sydney Games in 2000, which was his original plan last year, until he found himself going for Savannah after winning the national trials. Meanwhile he is back



Ainslie chewing over the offer of book contracts

French pair added to list of casualties

By EDWARD GORMAN, SAILING CORRESPONDENT

TO FINISH first, first you have to finish: in no other yacht race is that more true than the Vendée Globe single-handed non-stop round-the-world race. The weekend saw two more competitors fall by the wayside in the Roaring Forties, reducing the field, originally 15-strong, to ten.

The leading skipper, Christophe Auguin, of France, on *Geodis*, is 500 miles ahead of his nearest pursuer, but still has 15,000 miles to go to the finish. The latest casualties were his compatriots, Yves Partier, on *Aquitaine Innovations*, and Thierry Dubois, the youngest skipper in the race, on *Pour Amnesty International*.

Dubois was the first to report his retirement, when lying in eleventh position on Friday night, after he hit something drifting past the boat that broke his starboard rudder just below the hull.

"I am giving up, I haven't got the strength to do a third start," a dejected Dubois, who was 2,700 miles behind Auguin, said. He was on his second start after a similar collision in the Bay of Biscay had forced him to return to Les Sables D'Olonne shortly after the fleet set off on November 3. Partier had led the race on the way south through the Canaries until his forestry

broke. He managed to rig a replacement, and was holding third position - about 700 miles adrift of Auguin in the Indian Ocean - when he hit a growler, a small piece of ice that had broken away from an iceberg, and snapped his port rudder.

"I can't repair this on my own," he reported from a position about 850 miles southeast of Cape Town. He is now sailing to Albany, Australia, for repairs.

Partier joins fellow French skipper Isabelle Autissier, who broke a rudder last week but has restarted from Cape Town, and Didier Moudougui, and the Hungarian, Nandor Fa, in being put out of the race.

Those still at sea include the two Britons, Pete Goss, on *Aqua Quorum*, who is seventh, and Tony Bullimore, on *Exide Challenger*, who is tenth. Mike Golding, on *Group 4*, is the new leader of the BT Global Challenge as the yachts continue westwards through the Southern Ocean, where conditions have moderated and brought welcome glimpses of the sun. Andy Hindley, on *Save The Children*, who led round Cape Horn, is second, with Mervyn Owen's *Global Teamwork* third.

Private school fees. £10 per month



Get easy access to the best text books in the world. And the ability to ask questions of every teacher, classmate or expert on the net, all for the price of a local call.

It's just one of the great range of benefits you can enjoy with Virgin Net, the service that makes the Internet easy for everyone. At Virgin, we believe the Internet has something to offer each of us. You don't need to know anything about computers. Virgin Net makes it easy to find whatever you want as soon as you want it. There's no jargon and it's a lot of fun. Just give us a call and we'll send you everything you need to get started. It's so easy, even parents can use it.

Suddenly, it's easy



For your free three month Internet trial, call free on 0500 55 88 00.

Harlequins unable to stem Bath flood

Bath 35
Harlequins 20

BY PETER BILLS

THE passengers on the SS Poseidon would have sympathised with Harlequins' plight on Saturday. They were sailing happily along and in fine fettle when something came over the horizon and swamped them.

In the film it was a tidal wave. At the Recreation Ground on Saturday, Bath hit them in the second half with so ferocious a surge of energy and adrenalin that Harlequins were submerged. It might have contained an element of ghoulishness to sit and watch a rugby team floundering but, as a spectacle, it was compelling.

The origins of this extraordinary Bath performance lay in the period half-time allowed them to catch their breath after Harlequins had established a 17-3 lead. Such was the Londoners' ascendancy in pursuit of their first league win over Bath, it should have been even more emphatic.

Bath changed the course of a wonderful game — quite probably the entire Courage Clubs Championship this season and possibly the make-up of the England international side — in the few moments allotted for reflection.

John Hall, the director of rugby and Philip de Glanville, the captain, found words that were to prove so motivational that Bath should package and sell them to businessmen as a proven formula. "The season is over for you, that's the reality," Bath's outplayed men were told. "If this match is lost



Lyle, the Bath forward, leaps high to gain lineout possession

there is no way we can retain the title. Our title. You have only one choice — save your season by getting a grip on yourselves individually, cut out the mistakes you are making and focus on what you do best and the type of rugby you know you can play.

"Take a long hard look at yourselves. Do it for each other. Can you look your colleagues in the eye and say you have really given your best? Or can you do more? We think you can." The result of this one-way conversation out on a field with 8,000 people watching, some from a city bridge and others from windows of flats above the ground, was phenomenal. It would be too trite to say Harlequins fell away, unable to

sustain the pace of the forward driving game they played so splendidly in the first half. The fact is they continued to battle mightily to stem the attacks Bath rained down upon them. But they failed. To lose a first half 17-3 to the league leaders but win the second 32-3 is testimony to Bath's enduring legend.

Mendez and Lyle were the two principles who turned the contest around upfront with their forceful driving play. Lyle, an American, is no long-term solution to their lineout weakness but as a No 6 he could have almost as big an impact on English rugby as Mendez surely will.

Behind them, Guscott was the elegant rapier who teased and tor-

mented the tiring Harlequins. Speed of thought and foot put him in position for his first try immediately after half-time, which launched Bath's comeback, and he added another at the end. This morning England announce their side to meet Argentina on Saturday and Guscott's craft, cutting edge and pace in midfield cannot be ignored any longer. England might also reflect on Callard's continuing value to any team with his reliable goalkicking.

Harlequins were outstanding before half-time. Challinor's try after a 75-yard movement begun by Harries, being supreme. As Hall said: "I was relieved we turned around only 17-3 down." When Bath were on fire after half-time they put points on the board even more efficiently.

SCORERS: Bath: Tress, Guscott (2), Thomas, Addicks, Conventione, Callard (2), Penalty goals: Callard (2), Harlequins: Tress, Harries, Challinor, Conventione, Chelmer (2), Penalty goals: Chelmer (2), Bath: J. Callard, J. Robinson, P. de Glanville, J. Guscott, A. Addicks, M. Call, J. Sanders, D. Hilton, F. Mendez, J. Mallett, N. Thomas, M. Hogg, D. Lyle, E. Pollock, S. O'Connell, Mallett replaced by V. Looze (40min), Addicks replaced by C. Harrison (78).

HARLEQUINS: J. Staples, S. Bromley, P. Menech, W. Carling, D. Luger, P. Chalmers, H. Harries, L. Benezet, K. Wood, A. Maltby, R. Jenkins, G. Llewellyn, G. Llewellyn, L. Cabannes, W. Dawson, Dawson replaced by G. Allison (30min), Bromley replaced by R. Paul (74), Staples replaced by H. Brown (79).

Referee: S. Lander (Liverpool)

Jim Staples, the Ireland full back, could miss the five nations' championship after suffering a fractured jaw in a clash of heads with Adedayo Adebayo at the Recreation Ground. He faces a minimum three-month lay-off. Adebayo left the field as a result of their 75th-minute collision, although he should be fit for the international match next Saturday against Argentina if selected.

RUGBY UNION: FORWARD THINKING STIFLES NORTHAMPTON'S RUNNING GAME

ROBS KINNAIRD / ALLSPORT

Townsend halted by Leicester's pack drill

Leicester 23
Northampton 9

BY CHRISTOPHER LEVINE

IN A battle between two rugby philosophies, Leicester's forward might triumphed once again yesterday. The life was squeezed out of Northampton in a draining encounter in which their brave attempts to run foundered on the rocks of the indomitable home pack.

For those who value substance above style, it was a cheering afternoon. When Northampton backs were broken, a try by Stuart Potter in the second minute of injury time put an unmerited gloss on Leicester's victory and maintenance of their unbeaten home record in the Courage Clubs Championship, which keeps them nicely placed in the trio of clubs trailing Wasps by two points.

Northampton's third defeat has probably caused irrevocable damage to their championship aspirations. Like others who have come to Welford Road determined to out-muscle and outrun Leicester, the best-laid plans came to nothing. In the merciful Gregor Townsend they had comfortably the most exciting player on the pitch, but no amount of subtle touches by the Scotland captain could combat the momentum of Leicester's yeomanry pack.

Of Townsend, Bob Dwyer, the Leicester director of rugby, said: "He gives you a heart attack every time he gets the ball." The same cannot be said of his own team, whose performance Dwyer described as rusty in parts. Leicester's abiding quality is their resolute toughness.

Reports continue to link Joel Stransky with Leicester. The

South African would certainly find life there different. At stand-off half, Rob Liley is not a creator and when Townsend caught him high, John, his older brother, stepped into the place-kicking breach with three successful attempts from five.

In spite of the mist and cold, only the fourth Sunday fixture at the ground attracted 11,839, Leicester's biggest attendance this season. The novelty caught some out. The start was delayed by five minutes for latecomers.

Leicester crowds are unlike others. To them, a rolling maul is the sweetest thing, a pushover try positively exquisite. Under Dwyer, the former disciple of running rugby, little has changed. His Australian sides were built on slick hands. On the few occasions yesterday that the ball emerged from the forwards its appearance was greeted with as much surprise as a shooting star.

Behind Healey, at scrum half, and his dominant eight, not much stirred. Townsend, playing where he should be at stand-off, was all cultured poise in midfield. Bell, too, had an incisive game, cutting through at angles and causing problems. All too often, though, possession went to ground, or attackers met a wall of tacklers. In defence, in particular, Neil Back had a splendid game on his league return from suspension.

It was a confident move that set up Townsend up for opening score, a dropped goal. When Dean Richards raced 20 metres from a scrum, Dwyer said that a cattle prod must have been used to prompt the old warhorse. Richards strained his groin in the process, but his move led to Rob Liley's penalty goal.



Richards, left, collides with Rodber, the Northampton No 8, yesterday

Although Northampton nicked two scrums against the head, their deliberate collapsing of the scrum and various front-row shenanigans underlined by David Matthews, except the touch judge chose to turn a blind eye. When eventually spotted, the two were ordered to shake hands.

It is Northampton's fate not to win at Leicester. They have managed it only once in 21 meetings. Grayson's second penalty put them a converted try away from levelling the scores but, as hard as they chased, Northampton could

not keep their hands on the ball. By the finish Leicester were cramped on their line and, from a third scrum, their ranks opened for Potter to crash through.

SCORERS: Leicester: Tress, Back, Potter, Conventione, R. Liley, Liley, Penalties: Liley (2), R. Liley, Northampton: Penalties: Grayson (2), Dropped goal: Townsend.

LEICESTER: J. Liley, S. Healey, W. Grayson, S. Potter, L. Lloyd, R. Liley, A. Healey, G. Rowlands, R. Cockam, D. Gifford, J. Wells, M. Johnson, R. Field, M. Back, D. Richards, Richards replaced by E. Miller (71min).

NORTHAMPTON: P. Grayson, N. Bell, J. Bell, M. Allen, H. Thompson, G. Townsend, M. Dawson, M. Volland, A. Clarke, M. Hyman, J. Cassell, J. Phipps, J. Chandler, A. Pountney, T. Rodber, Allen replaced by I. Hunter (75), Rodber replaced by S. Spradbury (83min).

Referee: A. Spradbury (Bristol)

They will surprise a lot of people before the end of this season," Richard Hill, the director of rugby at Gloucester, said. "They have got a lot of talent there, but that was a good win for us because, if we had slipped up, they would have closed to within two points of us and we have got to go there after Christmas."

This Gloucester team is young, but its talent outweighs its inexperience and every week the players become more streetwise. Hill had told them to expect an aerial bombardment from David Humphreys; when that did not materialise, they had to change their tactics. David Sims, the captain, and Scott Benton and Mark Mapletoft, at half back, found the solution. Hill's only complaint was that it took them 40 minutes to do so.

The game was played at breakneck speed. Irish were dangerous on the break; Gloucester preferred to use their kicking game, with Mapletoft turning the screw. He set up Gloucester's decisive second try with a towering kick to the foot of the Irish posts, and watched in delight as Martin Roberts collected the ball and crashed over. Mapletoft converted and produced a dropped goal in the last five minutes to put Gloucester clear.

As he often does, Mapletoft kept Gloucester in the hunt by

putting every penalty attempt on target in the first half. Irish breached the defences when the impressive Rob Henderson claimed his two tries in the first period, but three penalty goals by Mapletoft to two from Humphreys served Gloucester well. On the only occasion that they went behind, it took just three minutes before Benton sprinted in for a try.

The score was 16-16 at half-time and the stand-off halves exchanged penalty goals before Gloucester edged ahead and stayed there.

"I feel the confidence comes into this side with every win," Hill said. "There is a belief they are not going to lose."

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tress, Benton, Roberts, Conventione, Mapletoft (2), Penalties: Mapletoft (4), Dropped goal: Mapletoft, London Irish: Tress, Henderson (2), Penalties: Henderson (2), Gloucester: C. Callard, M. Peters, A. Saint-Amant, M. Roberts, A. Lusher, M. Mapletoft, S. Benton, A. Wingo, P. Greening, P. Vickery, P. Glanville, R. Potter, D. Sims, N. Carter, S. Dawson, Saverio replaced by D. Carter (80min).

LONDON IRISH: C. O'Shea, N. Woods, R. Henderson, S. Sims, J. Baskin, D. Humphreys, P. Richards, M. Moore, R. Keller, S. Hogg, K. O'Connell, J. Davidson, M. O'Kelly, Z. Dawson, V. Costello, Humphreys replaced by G. Fraser (80min).

Referee: S. Carrasco (Worcester)

King shows his composure

Wasps 15
Bristol 13

BY BRYAN STILES

IF ENGLAND needed to know whether Alex King, their reserve stand-off half, can kick goals under pressure, his match-winning penalty goal in injury time for Wasps on Saturday should dispel any doubts. He displayed nerves of steel for what was his first goal kick of the match.

With the referee having already added almost five minutes for injuries, with Wasps trailing by one point and striving for a victory that would take them to the top of the Courage Clubs Championship table, the pressure could not have been tighter. He knew he could not afford to miss — and sent the ball straight between the posts.

With Jon Upton, the usually reliable regular kicker, having missed five out of six kicks at goal, King stepped up in response to a pre-match plan. A bemused King said later: "It

was a bit dreamy really because I often think about kicking an important goal in the last minute. Jon [Upton] had a bit of a shocker and I knew that last one would be up to me. Just before I kicked Inga [Tuigamala] said 'good luck' and the next thing the lads were jumping all over me."

It was a score that brought Wasps the two league points that enabled them to leapfrog Harlequins, who lost to Bath at the Recreation Ground. The goal also produced an enthralling climax to a wonderful, free-flowing match that neither side deserved to lose and that must have left lowly Bristol cursing the rugby gods. They were almost completely dominant in the second half and deserved at least two more tries.

Wasps would have been happier if the match had been played yesterday to avoid clashing with televised rugby. They claim they would have trebled their 2,500 gate. Bristol declined to switch as they had scheduled a game for tonight.

Wasps began the match as if they were going to put struggling Bristol firmly in their place, moving the ball quickly around the field and exploiting gaps.

They were 12-0 ahead in 20 minutes as sustained pressure by forwards and backs punctured the Bristol defence and let in King and White for tries, the first of which Upton converted. Burke replied with a penalty goal and Hull went over in the corner to make it 12-8 at the interval. Bristol's pack took the game to Wasps and Corkery dived over from a lineout to give them a one-point lead. It looked enough to secure victory until King produced his match-winning.

SCORERS: Wasps: Tress, King, White, Conventione, Upton, Penalties: King, Bristol: Tress, Hull, Corkery, Penalties: Burke.

WASPS: J. Upton, P. Sampson, N. Givens, V. Tuigamala, S. Foster, A. King, A. Gomez, D. Mulvey, S. Mitchell, W. Green, I. Davidson, D. Cronin, A. Field, M. White, C. Shalaby, Green replaced by J. Durston (70min).

BRISTOL: P. Hull, D. Tait, S. Martin, M. Denny, B. Brezina, P. Burke, R. Smith, A. Sharp, M. Pagan, D. Hendry, D. Convery, S. Shaw, C. English, S. Flett, M. Conry, Conry replaced by C. Burrow (81min).

Referee: A. Watson (Ireland)

Irish bow to Mapletoft

Gloucester 29
London Irish 19

BY A CORRESPONDENT

GLoucester began their Courage Clubs Championship season with five defeats and, at the end of September, looked to be in trouble. Two months later, four wins from nine games looks a lot healthier and there is a cheery, cherry glow at Kingsholm.

London Irish, meanwhile, have yet to find their way out of the basement and their hope lies in the pedigree of their team — eight full internationals were in this line-up. They provided Gloucester with a tough battle.

"They will surprise a lot of people before the end of this season," Richard Hill, the director of rugby at Gloucester, said. "They have got a lot of talent there, but that was a good win for us because, if we had slipped up, they would have closed to within two points of us and we have got to go there after Christmas."

putting every penalty attempt on target in the first half. Irish breached the defences when the impressive Rob Henderson claimed his two tries in the first period, but three penalty goals by Mapletoft to two from Humphreys served Gloucester well. On the only occasion that they went behind, it took just three minutes before Benton sprinted in for a try.

The score was 16-16 at half-time and the stand-off halves exchanged penalty goals before Gloucester edged ahead and stayed there.

SCORERS: Gloucester: Tress, Benton, Roberts, Conventione, Mapletoft (2), Penalties: Mapletoft (4), Dropped goal: Mapletoft, London Irish: Tress, Henderson (2), Penalties: Henderson (2), Gloucester: C. Callard, M. Peters, A. Saint-Amant, M. Roberts, A. Lusher, M. Mapletoft, S. Benton, A. Wingo, P. Greening, P. Vickery, P. Glanville, R. Potter, D. Sims, N. Carter, S. Dawson, Saverio replaced by D. Carter (80min).

LONDON IRISH: C. O'Shea, N. Woods, R. Henderson, S. Sims, J. Baskin, D. Humphreys, P. Richards, M. Moore, R. Keller, S. Hogg, K. O'Connell, J. Davidson, M. O'Kelly, Z. Dawson, V. Costello, Humphreys replaced by G. Fraser (80min).

Referee: S. Carrasco (Worcester)

Sale deny Saracens chance to celebrate new arrival

Saracens 17
Sale 17

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THIS was not quite the style with which Saracens hoped to celebrate signing Francois Pienaar last week. The gloom of a dark, dank afternoon was alleviated for the North London club yesterday only by the salvaging of a Courage Clubs Championship point that keeps both them and Sale on the fringe of the group chasing a top-three place in the first division.

Sale, whose home defeat of Harlequins at the end of October confirmed their ambitions, will regret the loss of a 17-6 interval lead, but no more than the complete absence of continuity that is a characteristic of their game. For that, John Mitchell, their coach, was inclined to blame the match official, a concern that was shared by Saracens.

Tappe Henning, from South Africa, will handle England's international with Argentina this Saturday and by then, perhaps, he will have relaxed the rigid stance he brought to Enfield. His first-half concerns with the set scrums may have been justified, but neither side was allowed to develop play at ruck or maul and, consequently, the faithful who braved the misty afternoon were treated to a stop-start display of which neither club will be proud.

Mitchell's frustration as he patrolled the touchline was obvious, although it extended to his own team, who lost their way in the second half. Their possession dwindled, the absence of John Fowler and Charlie Vyvyan — both injured during the abortive Counties of Origin series — began to tell and the bright start that earned 11 points in as many minutes became a distant memory. Even so, had Mannix been more consistent with his goal-kicking, Sale could have been out of sight by the interval.

Mannix kicked four penalties, but missed two more, as well as a dropped-goal attempt and the conversion of McCartney's try after the big lock was driven over from a lineout won by his partner, Baldwin. Yet Mannix compensated by organising his midfield well, while Lynagh, his opposite number, suffered by comparison. The Australian was unwell last week and his game and goal-kicking were distinctly off-colour.

His two successful goals served to keep Saracens in touch until they could construct some kind of game from the amorphous mess into which play descended. They started to drive down the middle and the penalty count in their favour rose. From one such award, five metres from the Sale line, Bracken took the tap and Oliver was driven over.

Lynagh's fourth penalty levelled matters, then Mannix missed his chance when well within dropped-goal range. However, deep into injury-time, Lynagh missed a 38-metre penalty and neither side could claim to have been robbed.

SCORERS: Saracens: Try: Oliver, Penalties: Lynagh (4), Sale: Try: McCartney, Penalties: Mannix (4).

SARACENS: M. Evans, K. Chesney, J. Buckton, S. Ravenscroft, R. Wallace, M. Lynagh, R. Bracken, A. Oliver, G. Bottomley, P. Watson, G. Clark, P. Johns, A. Cogswell, R. Hall, A. Dixon, R. Wallace temporarily replaced by D. O'Leary (20-28min).

SALE: J. Walmsley, J. Deneau, J. Barendse, G. Stodd, T. Green, S. Mannix, D. Mead, P. Winstanley, S. Diamond, A. Smith, D. O'Grady, R. McCartney, D. Baldwin, A. Morris, S. Berris, A. Wingo, P. Greening, P. Vickery, P. Glanville, R. Potter, D. Sims, N. Carter, S. Dawson, Saverio replaced by D. Carter (80min).

LONDON IRISH: C. O'Shea, N. Woods, R. Henderson, S. Sims, J. Baskin, D. Humphreys, P. Richards, M. Moore, R. Keller, S. Hogg, K. O'Connell, J. Davidson, M. O'Kelly, Z. Dawson, V. Costello, Humphreys replaced by G. Fraser (80min).

Referee: S. Carrasco (Worcester)

Football maintains regional bias

By JOHN GOODBODY

JUST as Lancashire clubs dominate professional football, so their local schools are producing a disproportionate number of successful teams and players. The boys seem inspired by the proximity of clubs such as Manchester United, Liverpool, Everton and Blackburn Rovers who, between them, have won 14 of the last 20 Premiership and old first division titles.

Of the 22 boys who will attend the trials in January for the England Under-15 team, 13 come from the North West. In the Goodyear Under-16 trophy, this region has provided winners in four of the last eight years.

Malcolm Berry, the chief executive of the English Schools Football Association, says the North West is unusually strong at the moment. "Next year won't be quite the same, but this area does play a lot of competitive football, and the need to be competitive rubs off on the boys. It also helps that in places such as Manchester and Liverpool there isn't far to travel between the schools."

The North West has not been as dominant in the older age groups, however. In the

Schools results 39

Snickers Under-19 trophy, which this year has been split into two competitions — one for the larger schools and sixth-form colleges, the other for the smaller schools — the region has had only five winners in the last 17 years.

It seems that the schools' success at producing footballers begins to work against them as the boys get older. "Many schools in the North West lose their outstanding older players to professional clubs. In other parts of the country, more boys stay on to continue their education rather than sign up," Berry said.

This factor rarely occurs in the independent sector, where schools from the North West have dominated the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup for under-19s. The region has provided the winners of the tournament for independent schools in three of the four years since it began, and this season schools from the North West filled three of the four semi-final places.

Only Lancing, who last Wednesday beat Bury GS 1-0

SPORT

away, with a goal from Stephen Bird, have disturbed the region's monopoly. Lancing now meet the King's School, Chester for a place in the final. The King's School won 1-0 at Queen Elizabeth Grammar School, Blackburn, the winners last season, who were missing three key players, including Ian Simpson, the captain. Rhys Owen scored the only goal after his teammate, Damien Testi, had earlier hit the bar.

The other semi-final will be between Manchester GS, who beat Shrewsbury on penalties, and Bolton, 2-0 winners over Bradford thanks to goals from James Freeborn and Dan Barrett.

Simon Rees, the director of sport at Bolton, said: "We are after a football mentality — young players who think as professional footballers and read the game, and don't just 'beetle' around."

"The North West is an area with a wealth of good football and the boys soak up the atmosphere. The proximity of the schools also means that they are vying with each other, both academically and at sport."

Bolton have also benefited from having Paul Mariner, the former England international, as technical director of football for two years before he went to the United States. He has now been succeeded by Mike Duxbury, the former Manchester United player.

Mark Dickson, the organiser of the Boodle and Dunthorne Cup, said that the day-schools in the North West tend to be committed to football. "They play football both winter terms, whereas most of the schools in the other parts of the country only play football before Christmas, switching to other sports in the new year."

"Many of the North West schools have boys who play all winter from the age of 11 until they are 17 or 18. In a tournament like this, it does make a difference."



Intense rivalry and the proximity of professional clubs has helped the North West to dominate schools football

Kent contemplates athletic future

By DAVID POWELL
ATHLETICS CORRESPONDENT

EVERY athlete went away with something, even if, for the majority, it was little more than a foil blanket and healthier lungs. The sight of so much foil at this time of year might be a turkey's nightmare, but on this cold, misty day, on a sports field in Leicester, it was an essential item for keeping warm after a hard run.

For the minority, there was a certificate of achievement, a reminder of the day that school made its muddy mark on the TSB English Schools Cross Country Cup finals. Just about worth the sacrifice

of passing up the chance to play football, David Kent, the winner of the junior boys' race, thought. He had to be asked twice, though, before answering.

Kent finished like a turkey being chased by a cook with a roll of tin foil, his sprint increasing his considerable margin over the pack. This was a local boy making good. Kent is from Leysland High, Countesthorpe, just five miles from the course at Wylliffe Community College.

Football is Kent's preferred sport, and he missed playing for South Leicestershire Schools to be running here, his school having progressed through two qualifying

rounds. It was, he said, his decision to run without the ball. "I wanted to do this because I did not want to let the team down," he said.

At 12, Kent is not yet at the age where hard decisions on sporting alternatives have to be taken. He, like Laura Puddle, built and named for cross country and the winner of the junior girls' race, are still competing in more than one sport at which they are gifted. Yet before they know it, they will be 15, like Andrew Sherman, the winner of the intermediate boys' event, who has just begun to commit to running, giving up his other sport, ice hockey.

Common sense is required to be the parent of a child with all-round sporting gifts. "The big problem is making sure he is not over-stretched," Bob Kent, David's father, said. "We look at his reactions, his programme and make sure he gets a couple of rest days. Any niggles and we make sure he pulls out of whatever he is committed to."

Kent Sr is in no rush for his son to accept an invitation to join the Leicester City Football Club school of excellence. "With the demands of athletics at an early age and the

commitment to training, it is becoming more difficult," he said, adding that there were not enough nights in the week to train for football and running.

The congestion has been eased for Puddle now that she boards at Millfield, where facilities for practically every sport are on site. "She used to do gymnastics at Heathrow, play hockey at Sunbury and we could not fit it all in," Kim Puddle, her mother, said.

Sherman, from The Ridgeway, Wroughton, expected to win and it was no surprise that the girls' intermediate title went to Louise Whitaker, from Weaverham High. The unexpected was delivered in the junior boys' team race, which was won by Killingworth, Newcastle.

The school had never appeared in the finals before. Alan Addison, its physical education teacher, came seeking merely a place in the top five, but he left with the cup, dated that, on this fiercely competitive day, the Wylliffe battleground had been turned into the Killingworth Fields.

Results, page 39

Sunderland's flotation will test demand

Forget your Chelsea Villages, Loftus Roads and Preston North Ends, this week Sunderland Football Club will set a price for their shares and issue a full prospectus on their way to a listing on the main market of the Stock Exchange before Christmas.

This is the first full flotation of a football club, as opposed to an issue on the much less onerous Alternative Investment Market, since Manchester United floated 3½ years ago. Admittedly, Leeds United have become part of a public company through their purchase by Caspian Group, but that did not test investor demand in the way that Sunderland's fundraising of up to £12 million will be a true indication of the bubbling market confidence and could tempt the big boys, such as Newcastle United, Aston Villa and Everton, into the market sooner rather than later.

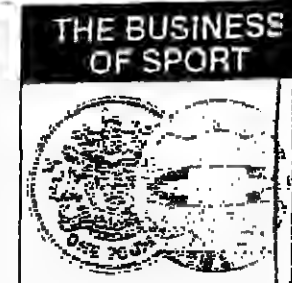
The City has some serious questions to ask of Sunderland before it is willing to give them the market value of some upwards of £40 million that Bob Murray, the chairman, is seeking. What about relegation? A real prospect, despite Sunderland recording their first away win, against

The City has some serious questions to ask

Everton, last weekend. What about their accounting policy, under which Sunderland buy a player and hold on to him for a year before writing off the cost of the transfer fee? Tottenham Hotspur and Chelsea write the value down through the life of his contract and Newcastle United write the whole value off immediately (which means this year they will be in the red, regardless of what else happens, because of the Alan Shearer deal). What about Murray's claim that, as 3.1 million people live in Tyne and Wear, and there are three Premiership clubs, there must be more than a million Sunderland fans? Has he not heard of St James' Park?

The prospectus will carry all sorts of interesting detail, such as the sponsorship income of more than £2 million, that Sunderland expect to get for naming their brand new ground and its four stands. It will contain the sort of projections of income and expenditure that are sadly lacking in any of Chelsea's financial documentation.

Recent movements in the thinly-traded shares of Chelsea, Arsenal and Liverpool, which are listed on AIM, the unregulated Ofs market, have given these clubs astronomical market value running as high as £15 million. If, however, Sunderland achieve their modest target of £50 million this will be of greater interest to five miles further north where Sir John Hall is deciding whether to float Newcastle. Cameron Hall, Sir John's property company, has pumped more than £40 million into the club and the wily old businessman is looking for a return. He also wants to build a 60,000 seater stadium across the Tyne in Gateshead and the club needs outside funding. The big question is whether it will go south rather than north, giving a market value of at least £100 million and freeing his cash to invest in the rugby and basketball team that will be held in separate, private company.



Everton are also close to floating. Peter Johnson, the chairman and majority shareholder, said earlier this year that he did not want to float the club. Now, though, he is saying Goodison Park is too small and that he wants to build a new home for Everton. Expect news in the new year.

Aston Villa are also in the rumour mill for a float. Albert E. Sharp, their stock brokers, have been selling shares heavily in a series of auctions since the company's restructuring itself earlier this year. Doug Ellis, Villa chairman, said in August that company's long-term objective was a float. His horizon looks like it is shortening.

Two other smaller clubs are also expected to float soon. Sheffield United's deal with the Leisureware company, Conrad, should be coming to the fore within weeks and Leicester City is also hinting at an appearance on the market. On the pitch, Sunderland might have the look of a team going down, but in financial terms they are leading the way.

JASON NISSI

AN EXCLUSIVE COMPETITION — THE TIMES

6 FORTNUM & MASON HAMPERS TO BE WON



HOW TO ENTER

Call 0891 300 361 with the missing word from the following lines in *Love's Labour Lost*:

At Christmas I no more desire a rose,
Than wish a snow in May's new-fangled mirth;
But like of each thing that in season —



FORTNUM & MASON

181 PICCADILLY, LONDON W1A 1ER

Tel: 0171-734 8040 Fax: 0171-497 2878

Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries received. Lines will stay open until midnight tonight. Normal TNL rules apply. Calls cost 45p per minute cheap rate, 50p per minute at all other times.

Continuing our Twelve Days of Christmas competition, The Times gives you the chance to win not six geese a-laying but a sumptuous hamper from Fortnum and Mason worth £250 each.

The hamper, presented in a wicker basket, includes the following items:

Blanc de Blancs Champagne;
Red Burgundy 1992/94;
Chablis, 1995;
Late Bottled Vintage Port, 1990/91;
Christmas Pudding 907g ceramic basin;
Brandy Butter, 225g jar;
Earl Grey Classic Tea,
250g caddy;
Mocha Coffee 227g caddy;
Sevruga Caviar 28g jar;
Caviar Serving Jar;
Castaing Cassoulet 820g tin;
Hare Paté with Pine Nuts 170g jar;
Crustamor Langoustine Soup 800g jar;
Cumberland Sauce 227g jar;
Grain Mustard 200g jar;
Strawberry Chutney 400g jar;
Mixed Olives with Sun Dried Tomatoes 1kg kilner jar;
Macadamia Nuts 200g jar;
Highland Oatcakes 400g tin;
Orange Marmalade with Whisky 340g jar;
Victoria Plum Preserve 340g jar;
Dorset Downland Honey 454g jar;
Baby Pears with Calvados 600g jar;
Stem Ginger Cake 680g tin;
Huntley and Palmer Chocolate
Olive Biscuits 300g box;
Six Gingerbread Men 250g box;
Glacé Fruits Selection 250g box;
Slimline Peppermint Creams 454g box.

CHANGING TIMES

GUIDE TO THE WEEK AHEAD

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated

* denotes 3rd round

TODAY

FOOTBALL

FA Cup: Nottingham Forest v Newcastle (8.0)

Auto Windscreens Shield

Northern section

First round

Chesham v Preston (7.45)

DR MARTENS CUP: Second round

Worcester City v FC Warrington

ISL LEAGUE: First division: Bognor Regis

WYOMING INSURANCE COMBINATION: First

division: Chelmsford v Woking (at

Kingspan) 7.45

FOOTING CENTRAL LEAGUE: Premier

division: Slough v Luton (7.0). Second

division: Mansfield v Grimsby (7.0). Cup

Group two: Barnsley v Huddersfield (7.0)

FA CARLSBERG CUP: Second round

Tow Law v Milton

FA UMBRO CUP: Third qualifying

round: Sutton v Gillingham. Third

qualifying round replay: Dulwich Hamlet v

Dartford

FA YOUTH CUP: Second round: Huddersfield

and Diamonds v Southend, Millwall v

Gillingham

SCHOOLS MATCHES: English Schools

FA Film Trophy: Fourth round: Aldershot

Barnet (at Farnborough Town). FA Premier

League Under-19 Trophy: Gillingham v

Lincolnshire (at Birkdale) 7.15

OTHER SPORT

RACING: Folkestone (1.0), Ludlow (12.40),

Musselburgh (12.20)

TOMORROW

FOOTBALL

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Macclesfield

(at Twickenham) 2.0. Under-21 University

match: Oxford v Cambridge (at Scorp

Memorial Ground, 11.0)

TOUR MATCHES: England A v Argentina

XV (at Northampton). Richmond v Western

Samoa XV. Scotland v Denmark XV (at

Queensland) (at McDonald Park). ANGLIO-WELSH CUP: Pool 2A: Ebbw Vale

v Gloucester (7.15)

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: National Cup: Semi-final

second leg: Newcastle v Sheffield. European

Cup: Macclesfield (Strat) v London

Towers

RACING: Huntingdon (12.30), Plumpton

(12.40), Sedgely (12.50)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

VAUXHALL CONFERENCE: Morecambe v

Garstang (7.45)

BELL'S SCOTTISH LEAGUE: Premier

division: Celtic v Kilmarnock. Dunfermline v

Hamilton. Hearts v Aberdeen. Motherwell v

Sheff. First division: East Fife v Greenock

Morton

RUGBY UNION

TOUR MATCH: England A v South Africa A

(at Gloucester)

ANGLO-WELSH CUP: Pool 2A: London

Ish v Newport

OTHER SPORT

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Leicester v

Manchester (8.0)

RACING: Hoveham (12.50), Leicester (1.0),

Lurgfield Park (1.10)

THURSDAY

FOOTBALL

BASKETBALL: 7UP Trophy: Leopards v

Scotland v Italy (at Liverpool, 2.0)

Went Hill v Lydney (7.0). Clifton v Bristol

(at Exeter Vale)

ICE HOCKEY: Olympic qualifying matches

Canada v United States. Czech Republic v

Slovakia

RACING: Farnham (12.50), Sandown

Park (1.0), Taunton (1.10)

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

EUROPEAN UNDER-21 CHAMPIONSHIP: First

round: Czech Republic v Netherlands. Wales v

Turkey (at Exeter Vale)

NATIONWIDE LEAGUE: Second division:

Preston v Blackpool (7.45). Third division:

Doncaster v Cardiff

RUGBY UNION

UNDER-21 INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Scotland

v Italy (at Liverpool, 2.0)

TOUR MATCH: England A v Queensland

(at Castlehead International Stadium)

CLUB MATCHES: Bedford v Leicester

Went Hill v Lydney (7.0). Clifton v Bristol

(at Exeter Vale). Northampton v Loughborough Students

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Friends Provident Grand

Slam tournament (Kilburn)

BASKETBALL: 7UP Trophy: Chester v

Sheffield (8.0)

RACING: Cheltenham (12.15), Doncaster

(12.50), Lurgfield Park (12.28)

SATURDAY

FOOTBALL

Kick-off 3.0 unless stated

WORLD CUP: European qualifying group

Baz. Cyprus v Bulgaria (2.0). Group 2B:

Spain v Yugoslavia (at Valencia, 8.20)

Group 3: Belgium v Holland (7.0). Wales

v Turkey (at National Stadium, Cardiff)

Group 4: Macedonia v Romania (12.0). Group 5: Northern Ireland v

Albania (at Windsor Park, Belfast). Portugal

v Germany (at Lisbon, 8.40)

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP: Leeds v

Tottenham. Liverpool v Middlesbrough.

Wimbledon v Blackburn

Walsley v Tranmere. Birmingham v West

Bromwich. Bolton v Ipswich. Bradford v

Reading. Charlton v Port Vale. Norwich v

Oxford Palace. Oxford Utd v Sheffield Utd.

Barnham v Huddersfield. Queens Park

Rangers v Scunthorpe. Stoke v Swindon

OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: National Cup: Semi-final

second leg: Newcastle v Sheffield. European

Cup: Macclesfield (Strat) v London

Towers

RACING: Huntingdon (12.30), Plumpton

(12.40), Sedgely (12.50)

WEDNESDAY

FOOTBALL

Walsley v Tranmere. Birmingham v West

Bromwich. Bolton v Ipswich. Bradford v

Reading. Charlton v Port Vale. Norwich v

Oxford Palace. Oxford Utd v Sheffield Utd.

Barnham v Huddersfield. Queens Park

Rangers v Scunthorpe. Stoke v Swindon

RUGBY UNION

Walsley v Tranmere. Birmingham v West

Bromwich. Bolton v Ipswich. Bradford v

Reading. Charlton v Port Vale. Norwich v

Oxford Palace. Oxford Utd v Sheffield Utd.

Barnham v Huddersfield. Queens Park

Rangers v Scunthorpe. Stoke v Swindon

OTHER SPORT

BADMINTON: Friends Provident Grand

Slam tournament (Kilburn)

BASKETBALL: 7UP Trophy: Chester v

Sheffield (8.0)

RACING: Cheltenham (12.15), Doncaster

(12.50), Lurgfield Park (12.28)

FRIDAY

FOOTBALL

Walsley v Tranmere. Birmingham v West

Bromwich. Bolton v Ipswich. Bradford v

Reading. Charlton v Port Vale. Norwich v

Oxford Palace. Oxford Utd v Sheffield Utd.

Barnham v Huddersfield. Queens Park

Rangers v Scunthorpe. Stoke v Swindon

OTHER SPORT

Victoria Walker takes the fitness-minded on a quick run through the aerobics-based classes now on offer.

A high or low impact on your fitness

Aerobics in all its many forms is one of the most popular and most accessible means of exercising today. From "keep fit" classes in a local village hall to membership of an exclusive club, there is a tremendous variety of activities and costs on offer.

Exercise classes in Britain (as opposed to dance classes, for example) can be traced back to the 1920s and 1930s, when the League of Health and Beauty promoted gentle exercises involving a lot of bending and stretching.

Using such dance-based movements as a way of keeping fit and toned became fashionable again, particularly in America, during the late 1970s. It was popularised by people such as Jane Fonda who swore by it as a means of staying young, lean and beautiful.

The Sports Council in Britain, however, became concerned with what it saw as a rise in sport-related injuries due to inadequate coaching. It consulted experts and the Royal Society of Arts (RSA), and created in 1987 the first nationally-recognised qualification



in exercise to music. Since then, this RSA standard has been successfully used and is only now being superseded by National Vocational Qualifications (NVQs) for fitness instructors.

There is a vast array of studio-based exercise classes, often within one sports centre or club. Whether high or low impact, performed with weights or resistance bands, with or without a step or even a swimming pool, what they all have in common is a cardiovascular work-out, mainly to music, and a period of stretching.

Aerobics in its most basic form can be performed at either high or low impact. Walking is a low-impact exercise, running is high impact. One foot will always be on the floor in a low-impact move such as hamstring curls, but this may not be the case with a high-impact move, such as jumping jacks. As the name suggests, the impact or jarring action on the body will be more intense with a high-impact activity.

One of the most popular classes today is step aerobics. This involves stepping on and



Staying in trim at the Harbour Club. An exclusive venue such as this can cost £2,600 to join and £100 a month, but fitness classes at a village hall are on offer at £2.50 per hour.

off a specially designed, slip-proof plastic box, which can be adjusted in height to make the exercise easier or more difficult. Step aerobics can be performed at high or low impact, though most advanced classes tend to have a mixture.

It was created by American fitness instructor Gin Miller, in conjunction with her physiotherapist, as a development of the classic bench step and Harvard step test, as she attempted to keep fit while recovering from a knee injury.

It is becoming increasingly fashionable to flavour exercise classes with the moves of different genres of dance and music. Jazz, Funk, Salsa and even Line Dancing have all

been adapted at different times to the needs of exercise classes. Other sports, such as boxing, have also been adopted by some classes to add variety to the moves. Boxercise comprises cardiovascular exercise with shadow and punch-bag boxing.

The useful qualities of water as an exercise medium has also been recognised. Water provides excellent support for the body, as well as creating a natural resistance for muscles to work against. For these reasons, aquaerobics is an especially good way for the unfit to start an exercise programme.

Prices of exercise classes can vary enormously and generally reflect the quality of amenities

on offer as well as the exercises. My 7am step class took place at The Harbour Club. The rudeness of the early hour was inevitably softened by the luxury of the surroundings.

The Harbour Club is known to the majority of people who do not have membership as the venue where Diana, Princess of Wales goes to keep fit. The facilities are designed to pamper as much as exercise, with deep pile snow-white towels, gallons of moisturising cream and shower gel at every turn in the changing rooms.

The club offers a huge range of activities and even boasts a real tennis court, as well as its favourite — a bar and restaurant.

The range of activities and quality of amenities are reflected in the membership fees: the peak rate costs £2,600 to join and £100 per month thereafter.

In direct contrast, Karen Walsh's keep fit class at the Jubilee Hall in Bishop's Wal-

tham, Hampshire is excellent value at £2.50 per hour. But, unlike a health club, she can only offer her own class and not a wide range of activities. The hall has no changing facilities or showers, and there is not a single luxury towel to be seen.

Other sports centres and clubs offer different types of membership packages. The Y in Manchester charges £320 for a year's membership or alternatively you can work out there with a day pass for £8.50. This price gives access to all of the exercise classes, including

step and aquaerobics, as well as a full range of general sports. The Porchester Centre offers membership of a gymnasium with cardiovascular machines and free weights, swimming pools and a studio, from between £15 and £37 a month. Single classes cost £4.05.

TIPS

- FIND** a qualified and insured teacher — such as members of The Exercise Council. Qualifications may include a RSA/Sports Council certificate or an NVQ.
- MANY** clubs insist on fitness tests for new members and/or an injury questionnaire. Make sure you discuss your personal health and fitness with your teacher before starting a class.
- WEAR** comfortable clothing that allows the body to move easily, such as leotards or shorts and T-shirts. Always wear trainers, preferably with heel/ankle support and cushioned soles. Sports shoe stockists should give individual advice.
- THE** venue should be at a comfortable temperature and, ideally, have a semi-sprung floor. Mats should be available for floor work and any equipment used should be regularly checked.
- FIRST** aid equipment and a trained first aider should be on site.

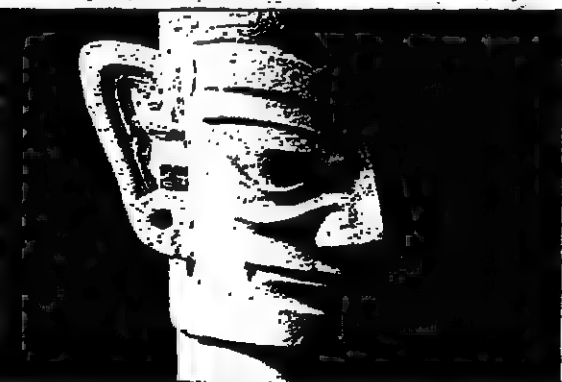
ADDRESSES

- The Exercise Association, Unit 4, Angel Gate, City Road, London EC1 (0171-278 0811).
- The Harbour Club, Water Meadow Lane, London SW6 (0171-371 7700).
- Porchester Centre, Queensway, London W2 (0171-792 2919).
- The Y Club, Liverpool Rd, Manchester M3 4JR (0161-834 6035).
- Karen Walsh, Jubilee Hall, Little Shaw Lane, Bishop's Walham, Hampshire.

SCHOOLS SPORT

EXCLUSIVE OFFER THE TIMES

Save £2 on China exhibition tickets



The Times, in association with the British Museum, gives you the opportunity to get a discount off the price of tickets for the China exhibition. Instead of the full price of £5, Times readers can buy tickets for £3 each.

The *Mysteries of Ancient China* is the first major Chinese exhibition in London for 20 years. It includes spectacular new discoveries from China's recently excavated royal tombs and sacrificial pits.

All you have to do is present the voucher below at the exhibition ticket kiosk at the British Museum. A timed ticketing system is in operation. (For further information call the British Museum on 0171-323 8783.)

You can use the advance booking system for which a £1 per ticket booking fee is charged. (You will still save £1 by quoting *The Times*.) Contact First Call on 0171-420 0000. Please bring this voucher with your ticket.

SAVE
£2

THE TIMES

EXHIBITION VOUCHER

Mysteries of Ancient China, sponsored by The Times

This voucher entitles the bearer to buy one ticket at the discounted price of £3.

BRITISH MUSEUM

How to begin an exercise programme

The dizzying array of moves

Arriving a little too early for my first aquaerobics class at the Porchester Centre, London, I went for a quick swim. Bad move. Aquaerobics is not for sissies. The combined exertions of swimming and running around a pool were almost too much for my feeble, flabby body to cope with.

Nevertheless, it is an excellent way for the unfit to begin an exercise programme. I was heartened to learn that I was not the most unfit member of the class. The all-female group consisted of all shapes, sizes and ages.

Water provides support as well as resistance for the body. Carol Jackson, who gave birth to her second child only six weeks ago, feels that aquaerobics is the best way for her to regain her figure.

"It's great working out in a pool because you don't feel so hot and sweaty and at the end of the class you just feel refreshed," she said.

Aquaerobics takes place in the shallow end of a pool and there is no swimming involved. It has adopted many of the jumping, kicking and stretching moves found in a conventional exercise class.

Although I lacked a little puff and an awful lot of grace, I managed to complete the main cardiovascular part of the workout without mishap. As the class wound down, however, and the pace slackened for stretching and cooling-down exercises, my body started to do its own thing.

Supported by a float under each arm, we simulated sit-ups and did leg stretches. Everyone else in the group

My body, however, seemed to be propelled around the pool with every move I made. I bumped into the wall and my classmates with alarming regularity.

Finally that bit ended and the swimmers among us paddled off to the deep end to simulate running — supported by floats. I was horrified to discover that my earlier problem with dynamics had reversed. People "jogged" happily past me while I remained stationary despite furiously moving my legs. I slunk back to the changing rooms determined to do better next time.

Many people choose to take a spot of exercise before going to work. Unable to comprehend it, let alone contemplate it, early morning exercise has never crossed my mind. Why I agreed to take part in a step-aerobics session at 7am is beyond me.

However, it is rather hard to sleep if someone keeps yelling "energy" at you — and energise I did. The fitness instructor guided us through various moves which were cunningly threaded together so that we were suddenly involved in complete routines that took us off on and around the step in a dizzying array of moves.

My wobbly legs were noticeably grateful as the pace slowed and we finally cooled down and stretched. But perhaps the greatest testimony to this session was that I felt full of energy all day. And as a tribute to the trainer, not a single muscle ached in the

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

The declarer had a choice of endplays on this hand.

Dealer West	Love all	Rubber bridge
♠ A J 8 4 2 ♥ Q 10 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ K 10 9	♠ A J 8 4 2 ♥ Q 10 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ K 10 9	♠ A J 8 4 2 ♥ Q 10 2 ♦ 7 6 ♣ K 10 9

Contract: Six Spades by South. Lead: four of hearts.

South opened One Spade after three passes, North raised to Four Spades and South made a general try with Five Spades. North went on to Six Spades, though he should have passed Five Spades — his shape was unproductive, and he only had one control outside spades. The final contract was poor.

The declarer got off to a sound start when he put in dummy's queen of hearts on the opening lead. Good players make attacking leads against slams, and so West was more likely to lead from a king than a jack. As it happens, a trump lead was best for the defence on this occasion.

When the queen of hearts held, declarer drew trumps in one round and cashed the ace of hearts. He returned to hand with a trump and ruffed his last heart in dummy. Now he played off the ace and queen of diamonds. After taking the queen of diamonds East returned the queen of clubs. That is the correct card — if

East had played a low one, declarer would have no choice but to finesse against East's queen after West's jack had forced the king. By leading the queen East gave the declarer the losing option of playing him for an original holding of QJx. As the declarer had decided to play for split club honours he put on the ace and finessed against West's jack to make the contract. His line succeeds whenever the club honours are split, about a 52 per cent chance.

There is a better line: after eliminating the trumps and hearts, play off three rounds of clubs. That makes whenever the king of diamonds is with East (50 per cent), and when the diamond king is with West but West has to win the third club. That second chance is clearly greater than the 2 per cent necessary to beat the other line.

Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD-WATCHING

By Philip Howard

- VITATE** a. To spoil b. Full of vices c. School for religious novices
- FITCHW** a. A lace collar b. To dispraise
- CARBUNCLE** a. A car morgue b. An honorary uncle c. A red stone
- NEFANDOUS** a. Unspeaking b. Neck-and-crop c. Inclined to weep

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE, CHESS CORRESPONDENT

The Las Palmas preview

The Las Palmas tournament, which aspires to be the strongest in history, gets under way this week. The competitors are Kasparov, Karpov, Anand, Kramnik, Ivanchuk and Topalov, the world's top six ranked players. They will conduct a double round competition against each other. The Las Palmas tournament is lent added allure by virtue of the fact that it sees the first clash between Kasparov and Karpov since the start of 1994. Here is their last game, one on which Karpov, though Black, pressed for a win and, indeed, missed the extraordinary tactical possibility 13 ...

Bea3 meeting 14 Rxd3 with 14 ... Qxc3+ and 14 bxa3 with 14 ... Qc3+.

White: Garry Kasparov Black: Anatoly Karpov Linares 1994

Caro-Kann Defence
1 e4 c6 2 d4 d5 3 Nc3 dxc4 4 Nxc4 Nd7 5 Bc4 Ngf6 6 Nf3 Nb6 7 Qd2 h6 8 Bb3 a5 9 Nf5 a6 10 c3 e5 11 a3 Qc7 12 Ne5 cxd4 13 exd4 Nd7 14 Bc2 Bb7 15 Nxd7 Nxd7 16 Qd1 Bc8 17 Ne2 Nd6 18 Bc2 b6 19 Nc3 Nxc3 20 Bxc3 Nf6 21 Qc3 Nd5 22 Bc2 Ke7 23 Rc1 Qc4 24 Kc2 Phb8 25 g3 Qxd3+

Diagram of final position

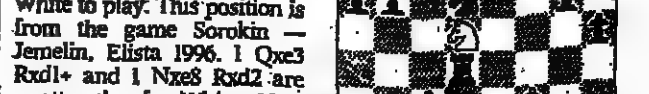
Chess for charity

The simultaneous display, where by a master or grandmaster takes on numerous opponents at one and the same time is a powerful tool for raising funds for charitable purposes.

On Saturday March 22, I will take on allcomers in a simulstun to take place in the boardroom of St George's Hospital, Tooting, London SW17. The goal is to raise funds for the St George's Hospital Hold My Hand appeal which aims to raise £1 million for their children's intensive care unit. Details and entry forms are available from Lucy de Ville, The Appeal Office, St George's Hospital, tel: 0181-725 5096.

Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

White to play. This position is from the game Sorokin — Jernellin, Elista 1996. 1 Qxc3 Rxd1+ and 1 Nxe8 Rxd2 are unattractive for White. How did he improve on these variations?



HOCKEY

BADMINTON

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS Final: Men: F. Pichler (Austria) 15-12, 15-11, 15-10; Women: S. Pichler (Austria) 15-12, 15-11, 15-10.

IRISH OPEN Final: Men: C. Houghton (London) 15-12, 15-11, 15-10; Women: P. Houghton (London) 15-12, 15-11, 15-10.

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Final: New York Knicks 110 Boston Celtics 107.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS Final: Spain 81 Italy 76.

WORLD CUP Final: Argentina 81 Spain 76.

Team	W	L	Pts	GB
Spain	15	0	750	
Italy	14	1	730	20
France	13	2	710	40
Germany	12	3	690	60
USA	11	4	670	80
China	10	5	650	100
South Korea	9	6	630	120
Japan	8	7	610	140
Philippines	7	8	590	160
New Zealand	6	9	570	180
Canada	5	10	550	200
USA	4	11	530	220
China	3	12	510	240
South Korea	2	13	490	260
Japan	1	14	470	280
Philippines	0	15	450	300

Team	W	L	Pts	GB
Spain	15	0	750	
Italy	14	1	730	20
France	13	2	710	40
Germany	12	3	690	60
USA	11	4	670	80
China	10	5	650	100
South Korea	9	6	630	120
Japan	8	7	610	140
Philippines	7	8	590	160
New Zealand	6	9	570	180
Canada	5	10	550	200
USA	4	11	530	220
China	3	12	510	240
South Korea	2	13	490	260
Japan	1	14	470	280
Philippines	0	15	450	300

Team	W	L	Pts	GB
Spain	15	0	750	
Italy	14	1	730	20
France	13	2	710	40
Germany	12	3	690	60
USA	11	4	670	80
China	10	5	650	100
South Korea	9	6	630	120
Japan	8	7	610	140
Philippines	7	8	590	160
New Zealand	6	9	570	180
Canada	5	10	550	200
USA	4	11	530	220
China	3	12	510	240
South Korea	2	13	490	260
Japan	1	14	470	280
Philippines	0	15	450	300

Team	W	L	Pts	GB
Spain	15	0	750	
Italy	14	1	730	20
France	13	2	710	40
Germany	12	3	690	60
USA	11	4	670	80
China	10	5	650	100
South Korea	9	6	630	120
Japan	8	7	610	140
Philippines	7	8	590	160
New Zealand	6	9	570	180
Canada	5	10	550	200
USA	4	11	530	220
China	3	12	510	240
South Korea	2	13	490	260
Japan	1	14	470	280
Philippines	0	15	450	300

Team	W	L	Pts	GB
Spain	15	0	750	
Italy	14	1	730	20
France	13	2	710	40
Germany	12	3	690	60
USA	11	4	670	80
China	10	5	650	100
South Korea	9	6	630	120
Japan	8	7	610	140
Philippines	7	8	590	160
New Zealand	6	9	570	180
Canada	5	10	550	200
USA	4	11	530	220
China	3	12	510	240
South Korea	2	13	490	260
Japan	1	14	470	280
Philippines	0	15	450	300

Team	W	L	Pts	GB
Spain	15	0	750	
Italy	14	1	730	20
France	13	2	710	40
Germany	12	3	690	60
USA	11	4	670	80
China	10	5	650	100
South Korea	9	6	630	120
Japan	8	7	610	140
Philippines	7	8	590	160
New Zealand	6	9	570	180
Canada	5	10	550	200
USA	4	11	530	220
China	3	12	510	240
South Korea	2	13	490	260
Japan	1	14	470	280
Philippines	0	15	450	300

Team	W	L	Pts	GB
Spain	15	0	750	
Italy	14	1	730	20
France	13	2	710	40
Germany	12	3	690	60
USA	11	4	670	80
China	10	5	650	100
South Korea	9	6	630	120
Japan	8	7	610	140
Philippines	7	8	590	160
New Zealand	6	9	570	180
Canada	5	10	550	200
USA	4	11	530	220
China	3	12	510	240
South Korea	2	13	490	260
Japan	1	14	470	280
Philippines	0	15	450	300

Team	W	L	Pts	GB
Spain	15	0	750	
Italy	14	1	730	20
France	13	2	710	40
Germany	12	3	690	60
USA	11	4	670	80
China	10	5	650	100
South Korea	9	6	630	120
Japan	8	7	610	140
Philippines	7	8	590	160
New Zealand	6	9	570	180
Canada	5	10	550	200
USA	4	11	530	220
China	3	12	510	240
South Korea	2	13	490	260
Japan	1	14	470	280
Philippines	0	15	450	300

Team	W	L	Pts	GB
Spain	15	0	750	
Italy	14	1	730	20
France	13	2	710	40
Germany	12	3	690	60
USA	11	4	670	80
China	10	5	650	100
South Korea	9	6	630	120
Japan	8	7	610	140
Philippines	7	8	590	160
New Zealand	6	9	570	180
Canada	5	10	550	200
USA	4	11	530	220
China	3	12	510	240
South Korea	2	13	490	260
Japan	1	14	470	280
Philippines	0	15	450	300

Team	W	L	Pts	GB
Spain	15	0	750	
Italy	14	1	730	20
France	13	2	710	40
Germany	12	3	690	60
USA	11	4	670	80
China	10	5	650	100
South Korea	9	6	630	120
Japan	8	7	610	140
Philippines	7	8	590	160
New Zealand	6	9	570	180
Canada	5	10	550	200
USA	4	11	530	220
China	3	12	510	240
South Korea	2	13	490	260
Japan	1	14	470	280
Philippines	0	15	450	300

Team	W	L	Pts	GB
Spain	15	0	750	
Italy	14	1	730	20
France	13	2	710	40
Germany	12	3	690	60
USA	11	4	670	80
China	10	5	650	100
South Korea	9	6	630	120
Japan	8	7	610	140
Philippines	7	8	590	160
New Zealand	6	9	570	180
Canada	5	10	550	200
USA	4	11	530	220
China	3	12	510	240
South Korea	2	13	490	260
Japan	1	14	470	280
Philippines	0	15	450	300

Team	W	L	Pts	GB
Spain	15	0	750	
Italy	14	1	730	20
France	13	2	710	40
Germany	12	3	690	60
USA	11	4	670	80
China	10	5	650	100
South Korea	9	6	630	120
Japan	8	7	610	140
Philippines	7	8	590	160
New Zealand	6	9	570	180
Canada	5	10	550	200
USA	4	11	530	220
China	3	12	510	240
South Korea	2	13	490	260
Japan	1	14	470	280
Philippines	0	15	450	300

Team	W	L	Pts	GB

Requests for county court hearing date

Perry v Wong

Sampson v Moon

Jones v Roe Shopfitting Ltd

Before Lord Bingham of Cornhill,

Lord Chief Justice, Lord Justice

Auld and Sir Brian Neill

[Judgment November 25]

In a county court action, to which the automatic directions regime applied, a request by the plaintiff for the fixing of a hearing date if made after the expiry of the six-month period prescribed by Order 17, rule 11(3)(d) of the County Court Rules 1981 (SI No 1687 (L 20)) as substituted by County Court (Amendment) No 3 Rules 1990 (SI No 1764 (L 17)):

The Court of Appeal so held:

1. Allowing an appeal by Robert Perry from Mr Recorder Garside, QC, who, sitting at St Helens County Court, had held that his personal injury action against the defendant, Kang Ho Wong, had been automatically struck out under Order 17, rule 11 of the County Court Rules 1981 (SI No 1687 (L 20)) as substituted by County Court (Amendment) No 3 Rules 1990 (SI No 1764 (L 17)).

2. Dismissing an appeal by Dave Moon from Judge Elyan-Morgan, who, sitting at Warrington County Court, had held that the personal injury action brought by the plaintiff, Gary Sampson, had not been automatically struck out under the rules.

3. Allowing an appeal by John Jones from Mr Recorder Garside, QC, who, sitting at Manchester County Court, had held that his personal injury action against Roe Shopfitting Ltd had been automatically struck out under the rules.

In each case the plaintiff, although not requesting a hearing date to be fixed within the six-month period prescribed by Order 17, rule 11(3)(d), had made such a request within the 15-month period provided by rule 11(9). The defendant had applied to the court for a ruling that the action had been

struck out on the ground of non-compliance with the rules.

Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Graham Wells for Mr Perry; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Philip Grundy for Mr Sampson; Mr Edwin Glasgow, QC and Mr Sam Grodzinski for Mr Jones; Mr David Stockdale, QC, for Mr Wong, Mr Moon and Roe Shopfitting.

THE LORD CHIEF JUSTICE referred to the plaintiffs' argument that a request made within the 15-month period was valid under the rule; that it would be offensive and unfair if an action were automatically struck out where a party had done precisely what the rule itself had provided; that, in particular, reliance on *Ashworth v Mckay Foods Ltd* [1996] 1 WLR 542 and *Ferreira v American Embassy Employees Association* [1996] 1 WLR 536, the effect of decisions since *Rossin v British Steel plc* [1994] 1 WLR 729 was that a request within 15 months was effective and timely.

The defendants had submitted that paragraph (3)(d) was unambiguous and mandatory, imposing a duty on a plaintiff to make the request within six months; that nothing in the rules relaxed that requirement and that the proper approach was to construe paragraphs (3)(d) and (9) together so that a failure to make the request within six months of the plaintiff had to obtain the court's leave to proceed if he wished to apply for a hearing date before the expiry of the 15-month period; and that decisions on Order 17, rule 11 had emphasised that importance of compliance with the requirement to seek a hearing date within six months.

His Lordship referred to the defendants' further submission, made in particular reliance on *Metrolinvest v Commercial Union Assurance Co Ltd* [1985] 1 WLR 513, 520, that a failure to comply with paragraph (3)(d) was an irregularity which, while not nullifying the proceedings, had to be cured.

His Lordship said that it was

important at the outset to recognise that Order 17, rule 11 introduced a new and, as the court had held in the past, draconian regime, with the obvious intention of attempting to eliminate the delays which had disfigured the conduct of litigation, particularly personal injury cases, in the past. Given that the regime was new and to some extent revolutionary there was limited value in earlier authorities arising in different contexts.

It was furthermore clear that the rules had to be construed so as to give effect to the intention of the rule-maker. Here the object was to induce greater urgency in the conduct of civil litigation.

It was important that the court should be slow to erect interlocking barriers or obstacles which would increase the expense and delay which parties would encounter in seeking to overcome or circumvent them and which would serve no valuable procedural purpose.

The court had plainly, in the earlier cases, assumed that a request for a hearing date, if made within the 15-month period, was sufficient to save a plaintiff from the sanction provided in rule 11(9); see *Ashworth* (at p550).

It was correct, as the defendants had pointed out, that the present point had not been argued either in the *Ashworth* case or in other similar cases. Veterans of the litigation would be surprised to learn that any point capable of being argued had not been argued in the past. If the court had thought there was any merit in the present point it would have been likely to have taken it itself.

In his Lordship's view, the assumption which had animated both counsel and the court on those occasions was correct and the court had indeed assumed, with justification, that a request made within 15 months sufficed, despite the fact that there had been no application for an extension.

The wording of the rule supported that approach. It was clear that the sanction applied to failure

to make a request within the 15-month period. There was some incoherence in the language of rule 11(9) in that it referred to a request made pursuant to rule 11(3)(d) within 15 months when a request made pursuant to rule 11(3)(d) had to be made within six months.

The reconciliation of that problem was that the reference in paragraph (9) was to a request of the nature specified in (3)(d) and not obviously to a request made within the six-month time limit. The rule clearly envisaged that a request might be made at any time up to the 15-month period.

That did not mean that rule 11(3)(d) was without effect. It enabled a defendant to make an appropriate application for the fixing of a timeable with the consequence of a cost penalty to the plaintiff, or his advisers.

It also enabled the court to summon the parties and impose a procedural timetable on them which the Court of Appeal would expect increasingly to do.

A request for a hearing date after six months and before the 15-month deadline did not import a retrospective application for an extension. The request for a hearing date had to be made to the proper officer.

Since the fixing of a hearing date was an act of a formal or administrative character which was not by statute the responsibility of the district judge, the "proper officer" was to be interpreted by virtue of Order 1, rule 3 to mean the chief clerk or any other officer of the court acting on his behalf.

So defined, the proper officer would not be a suitable person to whom to address an application calling for the exercise of discretion. The inference was that if the plaintiff requested the proper officer to fix a hearing date after the expiry of the six-month period, but before the expiry of the 15-month period, the proper officer would fix the date.

That was an automatic step not involving the exercise of discretion. It might be open to a defendant to apply to set that order aside on the

ground, for example, that the plaintiff had ulterior motives capable of being regarded as an abuse of process; see *Ashworth* (at p549).

Metrolinvest had been a strong case on the merits. It was however clear that procedural irregularities varied greatly in significance and his Lordship would question whether one rule was applicable to all such irregularities.

That was the conclusion reached by Sir Robert Megarry, Vice-Chancellor, in *Chapman v Chapman* [1985] 1 WLR 599 and his Lordship agreed with it.

In any event it was clear on the construction of Order 17, rule 11 which in effect established a code, that the rule laid down, if such it was, by Lord Justice Cuming, could not apply to non-compliance with Order 17, rule 11(3)(d).

Accordingly on the construction of the rules and consistently with previous authority a request made after six months and before the 15-month period and before expiry of the 15-month period was validly made even though there had been no preceding request for an extension of the six-month time limit.

In the first action, the recorder had concluded that where no request had been made within the six-month period the plaintiff had to obtain an extension even if he made a request within the 15-month period; that that request implied or imported within it an application for an extension which he determined against the plaintiff on the tests laid down in the *Rossin* case.

It followed from his Lordship's judgment that the recorder had been wrong.

Lord Justice Auld agreed and Sir Brian Neill delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Pannone & Partners, Manchester, for J. Keith Park & Co, Merseyside; Pannone & Partners, Manchester, for Frank Howarth, Warrington; Pannone & Partners, Manchester, for Davies Wallis Foyner, Manchester.

Resisting application to stay proceedings

Trustee of the property of Andrews v Brock Builders (Kessingland) Ltd

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice Aldous and Lord Justice Brooke

[Judgment November 21]

A plaintiff who relied on financial difficulties to resist an application to stay proceedings to give effect to an arbitration agreement had to show that he had a reasonable prospect of establishing that the defendant's breach of contract had caused his inability to arbitrate.

The Court of Appeal so held in an appeal by the plaintiff, the trustee in bankruptcy of Mr Alan Andrews, against the decision of Judge Bowsher, QC, sitting as an Official Referee on December 8, 1994, staying his action against the defendant, Brock Builders (Kessingland) Ltd, pursuant to section 4 of the Arbitration Act 1950 on the ground that the proceedings related to matters agreed by the parties to be referred to arbitration.

Mr Andrews had been employed by the defendant under a sub-contract which contained a clause providing that all disputes to be referred to arbitration. In June 1990 the defendant terminated the sub-contract. Subsequently, Mr Andrews was made bankrupt. His trustee in bankruptcy was granted legal aid and started proceedings against the defendant for breach of contract.

Mr Sinclair Christie for the plaintiff; Mr Christopher Smyth for the defendant.

LORD JUSTICE ALDOUS, giving the judgment of the court, said that the case for a stay of the proceedings against the defendant was, on its face, simple. There was an arbitration clause in the agreement and there was no reason why a stay of proceedings should not be granted.

The plaintiff resisted the stay on the ground that if the defendant had not wrongfully terminated Mr Andrews' employment it was unlikely that he would have been sued. The plaintiff had the benefit of a legal aid certificate which enabled him to fund the proceedings but he was unable to still the plaintiff's claim.

Section 4 of the Arbitration Act 1950 indicated that effect should be given to all agreements to refer disputes to arbitration unless there was a sufficient reason for refusing a stay.

The mere fact of a plaintiff's poverty which would have rendered it financially impossible for

Resisting application to stay proceedings

him to go to arbitration, was not per se a sufficient ground upon which the court could refuse a stay.

However, if a breach of the agreement by a defendant resulted in the plaintiff being unable to prosecute arbitration proceedings that could amount to a sufficient reason to refuse a stay.

Standard of proof

The first matter for decision was whether a plaintiff, when seeking to rebut a defendant's application for a stay, need establish on the balance of probabilities that it was the defendant's breach of contract that caused his inability to arbitrate, or was it sufficient that there was a triable issue, alternatively a real prospect of success, or, as the judge held, did he have to show a real probability that it was the defendant's breach that had caused his difficulties?

In *Fakes v Taylor Woodrow Construction Ltd* [1973] QB 436 the majority of the Court of Appeal rejected the standard of a strong prima facie case. Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, was prepared to accept as sufficient that there was a triable issue, whereas Sir Gordon Willmer required some reasonable probability that a change might be well founded. In *Goodman v Winchester and Alton Railway plc* [1985] 1 WLR 141 it seemed that Lord Justice Griffiths adopted the normal civil standard of proof.

The authorities did not demonstrate a consistent approach. It was therefore not surprising that the plaintiff submitted that the court should adopt the lowest standard of proof and the defendant urged the normal civil standard of proof.

The court saw the force in that latter submission, based as it was on the submission that when the parties had agreed a particular way of dispute resolution, a court should not endorse a deviation without clear evidence to support the grounds put forward.

However, to adopt that standard would require a court to carry out a mini-trial to decide whether the plaintiff's claim was probably going to succeed. That the court believed would be wrong. The court itself did not believe that it was to be the appropriate standard.

The court would also reject the test of "a serious issue to be tried" as being too low and adopt the test suggested by Sir Gordon Willmer in *Fakes* which he expressed as "some reasonable probability that the charges may be well founded".

Taking those words as a whole, the court believed that the test proposed, which the court believed to be the correct one, was that the plaintiff had to show a reasonable prospect of success.

Resisting application to stay proceedings

The judge, relying on the words of Lord Justice Griffiths in *Goodman* had understood that a plaintiff had to establish a reasonable probability of success.

Although that was understandable, the court believed his approach was wrong. It was therefore necessary to look again at the facts and, if appropriate, exercise the discretion given by section 4 of the Act.

Application of standard of proof to the facts

The defendant submitted that upon the evidence the plaintiff had not established to the required standard of proof that the alleged breaches of contract caused the plaintiff's inability to arbitrate. The court believed that submission had merit. The highest it was put by the plaintiff was that if the defendant had not wrongfully terminated Mr Andrews' employment it was unlikely he would have been made bankrupt.

There was no evidence that even if Mr Andrews had not been made bankrupt he would have had funds to conduct arbitration proceedings. Thus any inability of the plaintiff to go to arbitration did not appear to have been caused by the actions or inactions of the defendant.

It followed that the plaintiff had not established that an exceptional circumstance arose such as to provide a sufficient reason for refusing a stay.

Discretion

Section 4 of the 1950 Act gave the court a discretion to grant a stay. It by no means followed that even if the court had come to the conclusion that there was a reason why the dispute should not be referred to arbitration, namely that the inability of Mr Andrews to carry on arbitration proceedings had been caused by the defendant's actions or inactions of the defendant.

It followed that the plaintiff had not established that an exceptional circumstance arose such as to provide a sufficient reason for refusing a stay.

The court had no doubt that it had been Mr Andrews' intention to institute arbitration proceedings. It was not until the plaintiff became insolvent and legal aid was obtained that the position changed.

In essence the action was being used to recover money owed by Mr Andrews to his creditors. If the claim was a good one then it could be referred to arbitration and funded by the creditors who would be the recipients of the damages.

Taking those matters into account the court would have exercised its discretion so as to grant a stay.

Solicitors: Nicholson, Lowes, Meers, Hobbs & Durrant, Lowestoft.

Duty of employer to ensure safety of employees

Health and Safety Executive v Spindle Select Ltd

Before Lord Justice Staughton and Mr Justice Tucker

[Judgment November 28]

In the context of criminal proceedings, the duties of an employer to ensure the safety of his employees were comprehensive and all formed part of one activity.

The general duty was laid down by section 2(1) of the Health and Safety at Work etc Act 1974. The matters referred to in section 2(2) were no more than examples of that general duty to which there was no need to refer specifically in the information and which, in any event, were not exclusive.

The Queen's Bench Divisional Court so held in a reserved

judgment allowing an appeal by the Health and Safety Executive by way of case stated against the dismissal on April 15, 1996, by Ouseway Justices of an information preferred against Spindle Select Ltd under section 2 of the 1974 Act in respect of an accident to their employee, Mr Neil Peever.

The information stated that Spindle Select, being employers, failed to discharge the duty imposed by section 2(1) of the 1974 Act in that they did not ensure so far as was reasonably practicable the safety of their employees and in particular Mr Peever while at work using a new semi-automatic post turning machine in their workshop whereby they were guilty of an offence as provided by section 3(1) and liable to a penalty

as provided by section 34(A), as inserted by section 4 of the Offshore Safety Act 1992.

Mr Dominic Grieve for the prosecutors; Mr Peter Cowan for the company.

MR JUSTICE TUCKER said that the information was preferred after Mr Peever had his right hand severed after coming into contact with the rotating cutters of a wood turning machine. The justices dismissed that information on the company's application before any evidence was adduced.

The grounds of that application were that (i) the information failed to give reasonable information as to the nature of the charge and (ii) that if the prosecutor sought to give further particulars by alleging both a failure to guard the machine

and a failure to train Mr Peever adequately, the information would then be duplicitous as alleging two separate offences.

The court was informed by Mr Grieve, counsel for the inspectors, that it was their practice, and also his experience, for such an information to charge an offence contrary to section 2(1) and not to prosecute under the latter provisions of section 2(2).

Mr Grieve submitted that section 2(1) provided the foundation for the offence and that section 2(2) merely provided examples of the ways in which the offence might be committed. It was the practice to provide advance information of the way in which the prosecution got their case and to provide witness statements.

Mr Grieve disagreed with the suggestion that if full particulars had been contained in the information it would have been duplicitous. He would not have referred to any of the paragraphs contained in section 2(2) but to a particular fault. That would not have been duplicitous since he would have been referring to one activity, one risk, that gave rise to one accident and therefore to one information.

Mr Cowan submitted that the justices were right to conclude that the information was defective. In his Lordship's opinion the charge should be founded on section 2(1), as the section creating the offence and, provided sufficient particulars were given, that was the proper course to take.

It was not necessary to refer in terms even if applicable, to any of the paragraphs of section 2(2), or to the subsection itself. Even if the information itself, or the particulars which accompanied it, referred to more than one aspect of the overall duty, that would not make the information bad for duplicity.

Accordingly the appeal would be allowed, the justices' decision quashed and the case remitted to the justices with a direction to continue the hearing.

Lord Justice Staughton agreed.

Solicitors: Solicitor, Health and Safety Executive; Weighmans, Liverpool.

No rent set-off against benefit

Harrington London Borough Council v Cother

An alleged underpayment of rent allowed could not be set off against a claim for overpayment of housing benefit because there was no private law right of action in relation to payment of housing benefit.

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Butler-Sloss, Lord Justice Millett and Lord Justice Mummery) so held on November 21 in allowing an appeal by Harrington London Borough Council, dismissing a cross-appeal by the defendant landlord, Michael Cother, against a decision of Judge

Tibber sitting at Edmonstone County Court and in striking out the defendant's counterclaim in its entirety.

LORD JUSTICE MUMMERY said that Parliament had not intended that the statutory rights conferred by the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992, the Social Security Administration Act 1992 and the Housing Benefit (General) Regulations (SI 1987 No 1977), as amended, should confer on claimants or any other person, such as a landlord, a private law right of action for breach of duty in relation to the payment of housing benefit. The regulations provided a de-

tailed self-contained and exhaustive procedure for enforcing the duties of the appropriate local authority in relation to the determination and payment of housing benefit. Until a determination was made under that procedure there was no duty on the appropriate authority to make a payment of housing benefit.

If there was any dissatisfaction with a determination which had been made the appropriate procedure for challenging that determination was that set down in the regulations or, failing that, by judicial review and not by way of private law action for breach of statutory duty.

European Law Report

Home carer not employed person if wife

Züchner v Handelskramkassen (Ersatzkasse) Bremen

Case C-77/95

Before: L. Sjövan, President of the Fifth Chamber and Judge: C. Guldemann, D. A. O. Edwards, J.-P. Puissechot and P. Jann Advocate General D. Ruiz-Jarabo Colomer

(Opinion July 11)

Judgment November 7

A woman who provided home care for her husband after he became paraplegic in an accident, and was not engaged in an occupational activity or seeking employment when she began doing so, was not part of the "working population" for the purposes of the Community social security equal treatment directive.

The Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on a reference under article 177 of the EC Treaty by the Hanseatisches Oberlandesgericht (Higher Regional Court), Bremen, for a preliminary ruling on a question about the interpretation of Council Directive 79/112/EEC of December 19, 1978 on the progressive implementation of the principle of equal treatment for men and women in matters of social security (OJ 1979 L624).

The plaintiff's husband, Mr Züchner, who had previously been engaged in an occupational activity, became paraplegic following an accident and required assistance from another person in the form of therapeutic treatment and of general care and nursing. The plaintiff provided that care in its entirety.

Mr Züchner's sickness insurance fund provided financial assistance for general care and nursing, but refused assistance so far as therapeutic assistance was concerned, relying on a provision of the German Social Welfare Code whereby entitlement to home nursing would arise only where there was no person living in the household who could assist and care for the patient to the extent necessary.

The plaintiff considered that provision to be discriminatory and contrary to Directive 79/112.

In proceedings concerning the plaintiff's application for legal aid to enable her to bring an action for damages against the sickness insurance fund, the question arose whether the plaintiff, as the wife of an insured person who was in need of care, belonged to the working population within the meaning of article 2 of the directive.

Article 2 provided: "This directive shall apply to working population - including self-employed persons, workers and self-employed persons whose activity is interrupted by illness, accident or involuntary unemployment and persons seeking employment - and to retired or invalid workers and self-employed persons."

In its judgment the Fifth Chamber of the Court of Justice held: The plaintiff did not deny that she was not engaged in an occupational activity when her husband suffered his accident, but she contended that she formed part of the working population as she provided care for which she had to undergo training and which, by virtue of its nature and scope, constituted assimilated to an occupational activity.

If she did not provide such care, it would have to be provided by someone else against payment or in a hospital.

The defendant and the German and United Kingdom Governments considered, on the other hand, that the plaintiff was not a member of the working population as she was not engaged in an occupational activity before she started looking after her husband. Moreover, according to the United Kingdom, a carer could not be regarded as a member of the working population merely because of the extent of the care provided.

Although the concept of working population in article 2 was very wide, the directive did not apply to people who were not working or seeking work, or to persons whose occupation or efforts to find work were not interrupted by one of the risks referred to in article 3 of the directive; see for example, Case C-31/90 *Johnson v Chief Adjudication Officer* [1993] QJ 252; [1991]

ECR I-3723, paragraph 20. Also, a person who had given up his or her occupational activity in order to attend to the upbringing of his or her children did not fall within the scope of the directive; see *Johnson* paragraph 19.

It followed that the term "activity" referred to in relation to the expression "working population" in article 2 could be construed only as referring to the very least to an economic activity, that is, an activity undertaken in return for remuneration in the broad sense.

It had to be recognised that a person might be obliged to have recourse to the services of another when he was unable or no longer able to perform a particular activity himself, whether it was the education of children, housework, management of private property or mere incidents of daily life.

In the main, such activities called for a degree of competence, were of a certain scope, and had to be provided by an outsider in return for remuneration if there was no one else, whether or not a member of the family, who would do so without payment.

Luxembourg

Home carer not employed person if wife

It followed that an interpretation purporting to include within the concept of working population a member of a family who, without payment, undertook an activity for the benefit of another member of the family on the ground that such activity called for a degree of competence, was of a particular nature of scope or would have to be provided by an outsider in return for remuneration if the member of the family in question did not provide it, would have the effect of indefinitely extending the scope of the directive, whereas the purpose of article 2 was precisely to delimit that scope.

On those grounds, the European Court ruled:

Article 2 of Directive 79/112 is to be interpreted as not covering a person who undertook, without payment, an activity for the care of his or her handicapped spouse, whatever the extent of that activity and the competence required in order to perform it, where the person in question did not, in order to do so, abandon an occupational activity or interrupt efforts to find employment.

The court said that the Court of First Instance was fully entitled to base its decision solely on the existence of a single economic unit in order to rule on the application of article 85(1) to the Parker group.

However, the unilateral conduct in question could fall under article 86 of the Treaty if the conditions for its application, as laid down in that article, were fulfilled.

petition within the common market, applicable.

The Sixth Chamber of the Court of Justice of the European Communities so held on October 24 when dismissing an appeal by Vihio Europe against the judgment of the Court of First Instance in Case T-102/92 *Vihio Europe v Commission* (The Times January 31, 1995; [1995] ICR 1050; [1995] ECR II-17).

The court said that the Court of First Instance was fully entitled to base its decision solely on the existence of a single economic unit in order to rule on the application of article 85(1) to the Parker group.

Give those special friends or family members living abroad the ideal gift this Christmas



Set up a subscription to The Times for them at substantial discounts off local cover price and let them enjoy early morning delivery on the day of publication.

SINGLE DAY SUBSCRIPTIONS ALSO AVAILABLE.

The Times. Your family and friends are missing the best of quality reading without it.

HAND DELIVERY RATES (except Rest of Europe)							
Country	Currency	12 months	Savings on cover price	6 months	3 months	Single Day (Mon-Fri) 1 year	Saturday Only 1 year
Belgium	(BF)	13698	45%	7534	3938	2283	3329
France	(FF)	1985	55%	1081	571	331	502
Luxembourg	(LF)	9184	51%	5040	2655	1527	8911
Netherlands	(DF)	778	45%	428	224	130	188
Switzerland	(SF)	809	35%	445	232	130	177
Rest of Europe	(S)	474	n/a	237	118.5	76.94	130

Same day hand delivery is available as follows: Belgium - main cities; France - Paris and postcodes 92, 93, 94; Luxembourg - nationwide, same day delivery by post; Netherlands - main cities; Switzerland - Geneva, Bern & Zurich. Mail delivery is usually one day late. Please call for details on hand delivery areas and mail delivery.

THE TIMES SUBSCRIPTION OFFER

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES				
4.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
4.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
4.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
4.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
4.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
BANKS				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
BREWERS, PUBS & REST.				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ENGINEERING VEHICLES				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
FOOD MANUFACTURERS				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
BUILDING & CONSTRUCTION				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ELECTRICITY				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ELECTRONIC & ELECT.				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
HEALTHCARE				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
HOUSEHOLD GOODS				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
ENGINEERING				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
INSURANCE				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
CHEMICALS				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
DISTRIBUTORS				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
INVESTMENT TRUSTS				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
UNLISTED				
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.0% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
2.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
2.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
2.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
2.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
2.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
3.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
3.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
3.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
3.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
3.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
4.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
4.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
4.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
4.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
4.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
5.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
5.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
5.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
5.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
5.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
6.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
6.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
6.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
6.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
6.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
7.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
7.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
7.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
7.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
7.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
8.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
8.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
8.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
8.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
8.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
9.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
9.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
9.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
9.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
9.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
10.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
10.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
10.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
10.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
10.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
11.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
11.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
12.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
12.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
12.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
12.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
12.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
13.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
13.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
13.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
13.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
13.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
14.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
14.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
14.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
14.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
14.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
15.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
15.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
15.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
15.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
15.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
16.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
16.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
16.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
16.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
16.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
17.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
17.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
17.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
17.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
17.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
18.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
18.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
18.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
18.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
18.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
19.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
19.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
19.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
19.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
19.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
20.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
20.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
20.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
20.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
20.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
21.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
21.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
21.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
21.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
21.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
22.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
22.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
22.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
22.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
22.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
23.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
23.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
23.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
23.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12
23.5% ABV Brew	100	0	10	12

045	MS EN	100	-	24	26.2
0470	MS UK Saffery	104	-	4	24
04870	MS Cant	105	-	3	24
04950	MS French	100	-	4	24
0515	MS Wls	100	-	4	24
0530	MS C	100	-	4	24
0540	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0545	MSWCO Bus	100	-	4	24
0550	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0555	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0560	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0565	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0570	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0575	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0580	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0585	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0590	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0595	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0600	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0605	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0610	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0615	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0620	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0625	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0630	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0635	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0640	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0645	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0650	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0655	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0660	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0665	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0670	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0675	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0680	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0685	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0690	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0695	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0700	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0705	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0710	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0715	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0720	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0725	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0730	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0735	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0740	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0745	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0750	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0755	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0760	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0765	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0770	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0775	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0780	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0785	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0790	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0795	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0800	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0805	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0810	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0815	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0820	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0825	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0830	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0835	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0840	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0845	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0850	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0855	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0900	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0905	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0910	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0915	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0920	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0925	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0930	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0935	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0940	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0945	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0950	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
0955	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1000	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1005	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1010	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1015	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1020	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1025	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1030	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1035	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1040	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1045	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1050	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1055	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1100	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1105	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1110	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1115	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1120	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1125	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1130	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1135	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1140	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1145	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1150	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1155	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1200	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1205	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1210	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1215	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1220	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1225	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1230	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1235	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1240	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1245	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1250	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1255	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1300	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1305	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1310	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1315	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1320	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1325	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1330	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1335	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1340	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1345	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1350	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1355	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1400	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1405	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1410	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1415	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1420	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1425	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1430	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1435	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1440	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1445	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1450	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1455	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1500	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1505	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1510	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1515	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1520	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1525	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1530	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1535	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1540	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1545	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1550	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1555	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1600	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1605	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1610	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1615	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1620	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1625	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1630	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1635	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1640	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1645	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1650	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1655	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1700	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1705	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1710	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1715	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1720	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1725	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1730	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1735	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1740	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1745	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1750	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1755	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1800	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1805	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1810	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1815	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1820	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1825	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1830	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1835	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1840	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1845	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1850	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1855	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1900	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1905	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1910	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1915	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1920	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1925	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1930	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1935	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1940	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1945	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1950	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
1955	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2000	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2005	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2010	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2015	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2020	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2025	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2030	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2035	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2040	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2045	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2050	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2055	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2100	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2105	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2110	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2115	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2120	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2125	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2130	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2135	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2140	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2145	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2150	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2155	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2200	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2205	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2210	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2215	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2220	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2225	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2230	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2235	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2240	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2245	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2250	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2255	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2300	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2305	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2310	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2315	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2320	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2325	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2330	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2335	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2340	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2345	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2350	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2355	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2400	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2405	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24
2410	MSWCO Inds	100	-	4	24</

Airtours heading into more profitable waters

AIRTOURS: The second-largest tour operator is expected to unveil a £21 million increase in pre-tax profits when it reports on Wednesday. The industry is still in shock after Airtours and Thomson, the UK's leading tour operators, were referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission by the Office of Fair Trading last month for alleged anti-competitive behaviour. However, Merrill Lynch is forecasting full-year pre-tax profits of £80 million for Airtours, compared with £59 million last year. Wayne Sanderson, its leisure analyst, said the prospects for Airtours are good because consumer spending is forecast to rise by 1.4 per cent, to 4 per cent.

The Airtours share price has not suffered as badly as that of its rival First Choice. The City is comforted by the 29.6 per cent stake held by Carnival Cruise Corporation, the US company, which is widely expected to bid for Airtours in the medium term. David Crossland, chairman of Airtours, has a seat on Carnival's board. He held the helm steady through 1995, the worst trading year for the travel industry for a decade. His experiment with cruising was an instant success, and Sunwing and Carousell were operating at capacity for most of the season.

LONDON ELECTRICITY: A decline in profitability is not normally associated with the regional electricity companies but shareholders should brace themselves when the company unveils half-year figures on Thursday. Brokers like NatWest Securities anticipate a drop in the pre-tax number, from £84.5 million to £70.8 million, with earnings per share also down from 32.8p to 31.5p.

The setback is largely because of the implementation of the second distribution review. There is also expected to be a slowdown in achieving benefits from cost-cutting.

The company has already made it clear that any cash surpluses will be used for strengthening the business, so there are unlikely to be any special cash handbacks. Even so, a 14 per cent increase is expected in the half-year payout, with brokers looking for around 13p a share.

SCOTTISH HYDRO: Thursday's interim figures cover what is traditionally the quietest period of the year and are unlikely to set pulses racing. Pre-tax profits are expected to be up about £5.5 million, at £67 million, with earnings 11 per cent higher at 13.1p. But the real focus of attention will be on

COMPANIES

future plans. The group has already made it clear to the City that surplus funds of between £400 million and £500 million will be used to expand its generating and supply operations. Only if it fails to find useful investments will the money be returned to shareholders in the form of a special dividend, or share buyback. Any increase in the interim dividend should reflect the increase in profits, with most brokers looking for a rise of about 9 per cent, to 5.2p.

YORKSHIRE ELECTRICITY: The focus of attention, when the group reports tomorrow, will be on shareholder value rather than its underlying performance. Pre-tax profits are expected to fall from £10.6 million to £8.1 million. Earnings a share will be down 6 per cent, at 42.4p. A share buyback may be the most likely outcome. It would enhance earnings and put the dividend cover back to a sensible level. Meanwhile, shareholders can expect a healthy 34 per cent dividend increase, to 13.3p.

MFI: The upturn in the housing market and pick-up in

consumer spending should be reflected in half-year figures today, with brokers looking for a surge at the pre-tax level, from £21.6 million to £41.2 million. In September the group confirmed strong growth with sales during the first 21 weeks of the year up by 17 per cent. The strong pound will have benefited the group when translating against the mark, and raw material costs are also expected to have moved in the company's favour after two years of adverse performance. Earnings a share are likely to have almost doubled, at 4.6p, while shareholders should be rewarded with a 17 per cent increase in the interim payout, to 1.75p.

COMPASS: A strong surge in pre-tax profits is envisaged when full-year figures are reported tomorrow, but growth in earnings is likely to be much slower. NatWest Securities is forecasting a rise in pre-tax profits, from £73.2 million to £115.8 million, up by almost 60 per cent. But earnings are likely to grow by a more pedestrian 18 per cent, to 26.6p. The strength of sterling will be good for the group, which generates 75 per cent of profits overseas. But the business is no longer cash generative at the net level, leaving it increasingly

vulnerable to rising interest rates. Shareholders should be rewarded with a 15 per cent increase in the payout, to 8.75p.

CHUBB: The maker of safes, locks and electronic security systems has disappointed the market with weak sales growth and eroding margins. However recent acquisitions, including MSS and the fire and security operations of James Hardie, are beginning to make their mark, while restructuring costs are coming down. NatWest Securities is calling for pre-tax profits of £45.6 million when Chubb reports its interim results tomorrow, up from £43.2 million last year.

NFC: The recovery at the logistics group continues to accelerate, and should be reflected in full-year figures on Wednesday when pre-tax profits are expected to come but at £105 million, compared with £76.2 million last time. Earnings should also show a marked improvement of around 35 per cent, at 9.3p. Competition remains intense but profits growth will have been underpinned by increased efficiency, productivity gains and cost-cutting. The dividend is likely to be held at 7.1p.

MICHAEL CLARK



David Crossland, Airtours chairman, kept the helm steady in a difficult year

ECONOMIC OUTLOOK

Clarke's diary holds key to the week

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A peek at Kenneth Clarke's diary furnishes many of the key events that will attract the financial markets' attention this week. Today the Chancellor is questioned by the Treasury and Civil Service Select Committee on the Budget. After the Governor of the Bank of England last week gave an apparently relaxed view of the need to raise base rates, the markets will be eager to see what light on this question will be shed by Mr Clarke. William Waldegrave, Chief Secretary to the Treasury, testifies tomorrow.

On Wednesday the focus in the morning will be the monetary meeting to see whether base rates are raised. Later Mr Clarke opens a two-day debate in Parliament on Europe. On Thursday the Chancellor goes to Dublin for a crucial meeting of European finance ministers, followed on Friday and Saturday by the European Council meeting, dubbed the Dublin Summit. On Thursday the regular

meeting of the Bank of France's council may gain attention given recent talk about the franc-mark exchange rate.

Among key British statistical releases this week are November producer prices today which are expected to show further easing in the rates of input and output price inflation. Output price inflation is expected to slide to 2.1 per cent from 2.3 per cent in October while input prices are predicted, according to the market consensus from MIMS International, to be 2.1 per cent down year on year compared with 2 per cent previously.

On Thursday November retail prices figures are expected to show key measures of inflation unchanged from October. Headline inflation is predicted to stay at 2.7 per cent, underlying inflation at 3.3 per cent and RPIY — excluding mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes — at 3 per cent. December's CBI industrial trends survey is also published.



Clarke: European debate



George: relaxed view

TODAY

Interims: Carclo Engineering, Drummond Group, Ideal Hardware, Jarvis (GB), Leopold Joseph, Mulberry Group, TR Far East Income. Final: API Group, Dwyer Estates, Electronic Data Processing, Fifth Floor, Reed Executive, Slims, Unilever. Economic statistics: UK November producer prices.

TOMORROW

Interims: Alba, Anglian Group, Berkeley Group, British Land, BSS Group, Capital For Companies VCT, Chubb Security, Drummond Group, Halm, Hill Hire, Procost International, John Tams Group, Theo Fernald, Total Systems, Triad Group, Vtech Holdings. Final: Alders, Caltech Group, Compass Group, Holmes & Marham, Hazell Group, Leads Group, Sage Group, Watral Holdings, Whetstone. Economic statistics: UK October new construction orders, UK BRC November retail sales survey, US Q3 current account balance, National Association of Purchasing Managers semi-annual economic forecast.

WEDNESDAY

Interims: WS Atkins, Bristol Water Holdings, David Smith, First Technology, Greene King. Final: Airtours, Apollo Metals, Avon Rub-

ber, NFC, John Senn & Son, Sap Industrial Holdings. Economic statistics: US November producer prices index, French November preliminary consumer prices index, UK monthly monetary meeting between the Governor of the Bank of England and the Chancellor, Japan October current account balance.

THURSDAY

Interims: DG Cook Holdings, Fine Art Developments, Harvey Nicholas Group, London Electricity, MS International, Phonelink, Reliance Security, Scottish Hydro-Electric, Welthomes. Final: Baggebridge Brick, Care UK, Courtyards Properties, Daily Mail & General Trust, Dunedin Smaller Companies, Greenalls Group, M&G Group. Economic statistics: UK November retail prices index, UK December CBI industrial trends survey, US weekly jobless claims, US November consumer prices index, US November retail sales.

FRIDAY

Interims: Moorgate Smaller, TR Technology. Final: Bankers Investment Trust, Grainger Trust, Moorgate Smaller Companies Income Trust. Economic statistics: European Council meeting in Dublin, French September current account balance.

SUNDAY TIPS

Independent on Sunday: Buy Hay & Robertson, Williams, Wainhomes, Manchester United, Tottenham Hotspur, Marston. The Sunday Times: Buy BAC, Williams, Tarmac, Hill Hire. The Sunday Tele-

graph: Buy Peptide, Williams, Emap, Doeflex, Compass. The Observer: Buy GUS, Courts. The Mail on Sunday: Buy H Young, Doeflex and S Daniels. The Express on Sunday: Buy Tate & Lyle, BT, BP.



ON A SCALE
of nought to ten,
NO~ONE'S
ever given it from one
TO NINE.

Full points or a big fat zero. There's no average mark for our malt. The unique, uncompromising taste of Laphroaig (la-froyg) has always polarised opinions. Some relish its sweet, heathery smokiness. Others will never appreciate its oily medicinal tang, nor savour the strong hint of seaweed. Take a sip, but be ready to take sides.



LAPHROAIG®
no half measures.

http://www.laphroaig.com



Labour training scheme to be spelt out in detail

**BY PHILIP BASSETT
INDUSTRIAL EDITOR**

DETAILS of Labour's planned University for Industry (UI) will be set out tomorrow. The party wants a business-based approach to lifetime learning and universal opportunities for continuing training.

The scheme has been worked out in close consultation with Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, who first proposed it. The party wants to show that a UI would be more than a vague concept with little practical application.

Labour leaders see the Ufi as a parallel move to the establishment in the 1960s of the Open University — an initiative that captured the public imagination and commanded considerable support.

While the party has not yet put detailed flesh on the bones of the Ufi idea, the Institute for Public Policy Research — a think-tank close to Tony Blair, the Labour leader — will tomorrow set out lifetime learning proposals that will use the Ufi to improve the skill base of the British economy.

Mr Brown will address an

IPPR conference on the Ufi. Beforehand, the institute's own report on the idea will suggest that a Ufi should not be a new institution that competes with other training and education providers. It wants a "national catalyst" to bring together a range of information currently dispersed across different companies and educational bodies, with the aim of reaching mass audiences at a low cost.

The institute's report has been drawn up in consultation

AIM keeps its nerve

BY FRASER NELSON

THE Alternative Investment Market kept its head on Friday, while all around it were losing theirs. As the FT-SE 100 suffered its biggest loss since Britain's ERM exit, the FT-SE AIM index held firm at 1,034.50.

Its performance further weakened the old taunt that when Wall Street sneezes and London catches cold, AIM

will completely collapse. Its prospects were lifted last week when its budgetary norms showed the shares of 30 AIM stocks qualify for tax relief. Ask Central, Pan Andean Resources and Scrutons are among those expected to be given clearance by the Inland Revenue under the new rules.

However, some of AIM's penny shares suffered, with Clubpartners falling from 13½p to 11½p after the Thursday announcement. The company's earnings are estimated at about 10p, but the company's broker, Juss Group closed the share easier, at 2p, while First Information dropped 4p to 5½p. Crown Products dropped 12p to 2½p, after a profits warning. But Trocadero, Celtic and IOC International, the market's biggest stocks, all enjoyed gains.

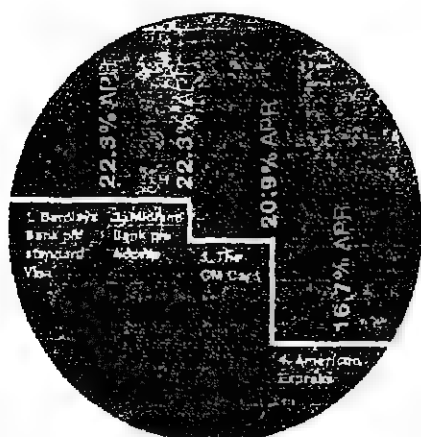
1986	High	Low	Mkt cap (millions)	Price	Why	YTD %	P/E	1986	High	Low	Mkt cap (millions)	Price	Why	YTD %	P/E
150%	132	132	13.90	AFL Systems	120%			2%	2	2	3.07	And Group	3		
152%	130	130	218	AMCO Corp	181%	+ 2%	4.1	11.3	2	0.25	JSJ Group Wts	93%	+ 1		
118%	87	87	22.50	AMF Fed	100%				123	0.7	30.30	KS Biomatic	50%		
87%	14	14	4.65	Alcoa Ind	100%		34.1		4.81	0.7	4.81	0.7			
15%	14%	14%		Alcoa Ind	14%				100	0.72%	13.70	La Sam	130%	- 2	
100%	100%	100%	14.10	Access Plus	100%	- 2	4.3	14.3	180	137	27.30	Lansdowne Co	130%		3.3
181	70	70	14.00	Adco Imaging	70%				323	210	16.00	Gencom	322%		18.1
10%	10%	10%	36.20	Adi Int'l	10%	+ 1	3.8	14.8	33.90	2550	33.90	2550	100	2.3	9.3
70%	70%	70%	11.10	African Gold	10%	+ 1	22.8		307	225	50.80	Le Riches S&P	305	16	12.8
10%	10%	10%	70.70	Adtech	80%				17	12	0.80	Life Members	15		
10%	10%	10%	10.70	Albion & Co	28%				70%	6%	0.24	Life Members	15		
10%	10%	10%	5.27	Algon	5%	- 1	1.1	15.4	17	12	24.10	Lobbs Rpt	65	- 4%	2.7
30%	30%	30%	3.68	Alma & Duff	4%				18%	1%	3.56	Lon & Edin Publ	85	1%	8.9
24	4	4	43.00	Alt S Brmery	47%		5.2	10.8	95	85	0.66	Louisiana	85	1%	
100%	100%	100%	1.07	Alt S Brmery	100%				1	1	1.75	Lowell	70		
121	6	6	54.00	Amcor	4%	- 5			357	192%	35.50	Loran Grp	337%	- 6%	1.3
8	8	8	1.66	Amcor	30		59.4		4%	3%	5.62	Lorichy	3%		
142%	142%	142%	26.00	Amcor	130%				180	21%	0.17	Lowell	25%	- 3	12.9
142%	142%	142%	1.16	Amcor	130%				220%	171%	28.20	Majestic Wm	221%		22.3
149%	149%	149%	123	Amcor	130%				25	25	7.19	Mart & O'Shea	55		
8	8	8	11.50	Barnard	7%				125	107	5.51	McElreath	110		2.2
4%	4%	4%	7.65	Barnard	4%				124	114	4.05	Meun Group	100		56.1
130	140	140	1.01	Barnard	10%		3.8	3.4	104	75	1.90	McGregor	81%		4.8
70	70	70	0.34	Barnard	10%				113	87%	4.71	Melick	87%		12.4
107	107	107	0.78	Barnard	10%				470	21%	31.20	Melick	21%	- 10	
535	535	535	0.78	Barnard	10%				53	15	12.40	Melick	18%		
140	140	140	0.50	Barnard	10%				15	15	0.36	Melick	18%		
110	110	110	0.12	Barnard	10%				180	180	4.50	Melick	84%		
213	213	213	1.12	Barnard	10%				200	37%	0.51	Melick	17%	- 1	1.5
108	108	108	0.21	Barnard	10%				200	37%	0.51	Melick	17%	- 1	1.5
36	36	36	13.70	Barnard	10%				200	37%	0.51	Melick	17%	- 1	1.5
108	108	108	0.87	Barnard	10%				200	37%	0.51	Melick	17%	- 1	1.5
72	72	72	3.28	Barnard	10%				200	37%	0.51	Melick	17%	- 1	1.5
57%	57%	57%	0.33	Barnard	10%				200	37%	0.51	Melick	17%	- 1	1.5

**"Still
thinking
of American
Express
as a
step
up"**

Think again.

Are you stuck at the top of the interest rate ladder, paying as much as 23% APR? Come back down to earth with American Express. With our new Credit Card not only will you enjoy a low 16.7% APR on any existing balance transfer but also on all new purchases. Plus there's no annual fee for the first year.

**To find out how we can help you
do more, call now:**



APR based on £2,000 average limit of credit with fee waived first year. Competitors' APRs based on £1,000 of credit with 1 £20 fee, 2 £22 fee, 3 No fee. Source: Manufacturers. American Express may vary the APR, interest rates and other charges from time to time. A written quotation is available on request. The standard interest rate for goods and services is 1.3% per month (16.7% APR) and 1.5% per month (22.4% APR) for cash advances, which must be repaid in full each month. The minimum monthly payments will be 5% of the outstanding balance or £20 whichever is greater. Applicants must be 23 or over. Subject to status. American Express Services Europe Ltd, Reg. Office, Portland House, 1 Stag Place, London SW1E 5BG, Reg. No. 1483139.

TODAY'S BANKING			CHANGE ON WEEK		
	Bank Buys	Bank Sells			
Australia \$	2.16	1.96	US dollar		
Austria Sch	18.73	17.21	1.6418 (-0.0387)		
Belgium Fr	54.91	50.85	German mark		
Canada S	2.983	2.178	2.6292 (-0.0541)		
Denmark Dkr	0.796	0.762	Exchange index		
Denmark Kr	10.23	9.48	92.0 (2.0)		
Finland Mk	8.12	7.47	Bank of England official discount (4pm)		
France Fr	2.95	8.26			
Germany DM	2.67	2.46			
Greece Dr	41.31	39.31			
Hong Kong S	18.15	12.90			
India Ru	150	100			
Indonesia Pt	1.05	0.97			
Ireland Pst	5.66	5.01			
Italy Lira	2690	2464			
Japan Yen	165.20	682.20			
Malta	68.00	5.676			
Netherlands Gld	2.978	2.748			
New Zealand S	2.46	2.26			
Norway Kr	11.10	10.30			
Portugal Esc	2694.00	249.50			
S Africa Rd	8.92	7.42			
Spain Ptas	218.58	204.50			
Sweden Kr	11.74	10.94			
Switzerland Fr	2.26	2.06			
Turkey Lira	179000	167000			
USA \$	1.728	1.608			

Prices for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates may apply to travellers' cheques. Figures are as close of trading on Friday.

FT 30 share
2740.7 (-86.3)
FTSE 100
3963.0 (-95.0)
New York Dow Jones
6381.95 (-139.75)
Tokyo Nikkei Ave
20276.70 (-743.65)

WORD WATCH

Answers from page 38

VITIATE

(A) To weaken, degrade or spoil. The impact of the Duke's moving address to the Conservation Society on the preservation of wild life was vitiated by the circulation to members beforehand of a news report detailing the great number of birds shot by the Duke during a sporting visit to the Highlands."

FITCHEW

(A) A poacher, or kind of carnivorous weasel. Whether semi-domesticated or not, as Hecate described Tibbit. Described by the OED as *fetid*.

CARBUNCLE

(C) Before penicillin, a carbuncle was a larger-than-life abscess. But originally a carbuncle was a large red stone. In Conan Doyle's *The Blue Carbuncle* Sherlock Holmes describes the Countess of Morcar's famous gem as being "remarkable in having every characteristic of the carbuncle, save that it is blue in color." This is an odd way of saying that something has every characteristic of water, except that it is dry.

NEFANDOUS

(C) Unspeaking, unsentimental, wicked. The epithet usually qualifies a mean indication of wickedness: nefandous villainy, nefandous drunkenness, nefandous road-hogery. Try *obscenous* nefariousness. This is even more confusing than the word *nefarious*. *Ne* is an odd prefix to words. The former comes from the Latin *ne* and *ne* is *not*. The latter from *ne* and *fas* divine law. But *fas* is *right* to *for*.

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1. King to King 2. Knight - One's One's and wins the game

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
g7 2 Nxe5 - Qxf3 3 Qxf5 and wins on material

Teach, teach, teach,
teach, teach, teach.

with TES 2 can quickly become devoted to teachers' needs in the classroom and beyond the school gates. Hurry to your agent today, please it at your leisure.

MAKE IT PART OF YOUR CURRICULUM.

YES

THE TIMES EDUCATIONAL SUPPLEMENT

EVERY FRIDAY 21

Liverpool millennium project under fire from Walton Group

By Jason Nisse

A PROPERTY developer is urging The Millennium Commission to reject an £80 million media and telecommunications project in the centre of Liverpool, claiming it will block another scheme that would create 6,000 jobs in the area.

Walton Group is proposing a rival £150 million development, building an 800,000 sq ft shopping and media centre on the site in Chavasse Park, next to the Albert Dock in central Liverpool.

Walton's solicitors, Bermans, wrote to Jennifer Page, chief executive of the commission, saying that a decision to grant the request for £24.6 million of Lottery funding for the Discovery Centre would kill off the Walton project.

The commission will decide on Wednesday whether to back the Discovery Centre, which is also set to receive about £15 million from Liverpool City Council and the Merseyside Development Corporation as well as £40 million of private-sector finance.

The project has been put together by the Anglican Dean of Liverpool and will include a media factory, a technology museum, a public park and some shops. Liverpool City Council, which owns the site, would be willing to sell it to the Discovery project for just £3 million, a fifth of the price Walton had said it would pay.

Walton says that Liverpool City Council had previously agreed to its offer of £15 million plus £1 million expenses for the site on which Walton is proposing to build an upmarket shopping centre along with media, education and leisure facilities.

Budget has failed to convince managers

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

BRITAIN'S managers expect interest rates to rise again before the general election and are sceptical about the value of the Budget to the UK economy, new evidence shows today.

The findings of the latest opinion survey of Britain's managers are almost uniformly dismissive about the recent Budget from Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, with most not only doubtful that they will be better off as a result, but suggesting that the Budget's tax cuts will push up inflation.

Reuters denies cash return

Reuters, the financial information group, denied weekend reports that it has shelved plans to return some of its near-£1 billion cash pile to shareholders. An earlier plan to pay back £613 million through special dividend shares was scuttled by tax changes in October. Reuters is thought to be waiting for Finance Bill changes before deciding whether to renew the attempt.

3% rises

Most wage deals in the engineering industry in the quarter to October were for 3 per cent or less, according to a survey of 142 firms by the Engineering Employers' Federation. October was the first month for nearly three years in which no pay freezes were reported.

TR deadline

Investors in the TR Technology split capital investment trust have until 3pm tomorrow to roll over into the new Henderson Technology Trust. Holders of 54.3 per cent of TR ordinary shares have agreed to swap.

WTO summit

World Trade Organisation ministers begin their inaugural five-day meeting in Singapore today, with customs modernisation and cross-border investment top of the agenda, according to business leaders.



New toys: John Swingewood, broadcast services manager at British Telecom, which is paying £6 million for a further 15 transportable earth stations. The mobile satellite stations are used to boost television signals to studios

Pearson buys stake in South African papers

By Eric Reguly

PEARSON, owner of the *Financial Times*, is to announce today that it has entered the South African newspaper market with purchases worth about £11.5 million. It is buying 50 per cent of *Business Day* and an equal share of the *Financial Mail*, a weekly, from Times Media, a South African publishing and TV group. The former has a circulation of 40,200; the latter 31,100. Pearson said the *Financial Times* will help the two titles to expand in their home markets and develop their international coverage.



Scardino: expected to sell

Pearson said the acquisition will be completed by the end of the month and will enhance earnings from the outlet. The purchase is apparently part of Pearson's new strategy of concentrating on publishing and entertainment in international markets. The company, whose businesses include Madame Tussaud's, the wax museum, Mindscape, the ailing electronic games maker, and half the Lazard investment bank, has been criticised for fighting on too many fronts.

Some of these "mistifs", as HSBC James Capel, the broker, has called them, are expected to be sold after Marjorie Scardino, chief executive of the *Economist*, becomes chief executive of Pearson in January, taking over from Frank Barlow, group managing director. Pearson is fond of financial newspapers because of their niche protection — they tend to have few competitors — and because they are able to spawn specialist online and interactive services. Its financial newspaper portfolio includes *Les Echos* in France, *Expansion* in Spain, *Financial Times* in Russia and 20 per cent of *The Financial Post* in Canada.

Victory for German metal union

By Oliver August

GERMAN employers yesterday caved in to the demands of strike-happy metal workers over a 20 per cent sick pay cut. Provisions for the cut, made in a new law, will not be implemented although the loss-making metal industry is losing 100,000 jobs every year.

Employers had taken a hard line in failed national and regional pay talks to enforce the cuts. However, the powerful IG Metall union replied with strikes, drawing tens of thousands to keep sick pay in line with full wages. Werner Stumpfe, the employers' negotiator, said that the deal failed to meet the goal of cutting costs, but no other outcome had been possible. IG Metall said that all-out strikes were possible next year if deals are not made nationwide protecting full sick pay. Under former law, overtime work counted towards sick pay, and sick workers could receive more than their working normal hours.

UK bonds beginning to look good

The year 1996 has generally been the year of the convergence trade. Italian and Spanish bonds, to name but two, have outperformed bonds. The gilt market has been a notable exception. In the past year, the spread between gilts and bonds has widened substantially. One reason may have been reassessment of which countries are likely to take part in the first round of EMU. In addition, macro-economic developments in the UK have not been favourable. Growth has risen and inflation has been disappointing. The annual rise in RPIX is likely to be 3.25 per cent in the fourth quarter, half a percentage point above the market expectation at the start of the year. Also, the 1996-97 PSBR has not fallen as much as projected in last year's Budget.

Sterling, in contrast to gilts' underperformance, has increased in strength — the recent peak of the pound's effective index was 14 per cent above the level at the beginning of the year. This has happened at a time when interest rate expectations have been revised up and the current account has unexpectedly improved. In addition, the dollar strength has provided a favourable background for sterling.

GILT-EDGED

It has not been all bad news for gilts. The combination of currency strength and higher yields has tempted foreign investors into the gilt market. Recent Bank of England data shows that the overseas purchase of gilts in October was the largest since records began. This is an acceleration of the general trend: the overseas sector has been a net buyer of gilts in every month of 1996, except in January. This trend could easily be sped up in coming months by Japanese capital flows. The background is that Japanese institutions have guaranteed higher returns to investors than are currently offered by Japanese government bonds (JGB) yields. This will encourage capital to flow out of Japan in search of higher yield, especially at a time when the JGB market is looking increasingly vulnerable. In addition, the weakness of the yen in recent months

up, so whoever wins the election will need to tighten monetary policy. Expectations of higher rates at the end of 1997 are likely to keep sterling strong next year. Foreign buying is unlikely to be sufficient to trigger a major rally in gilts immediately. The very combination of strong growth and stubborn inflation that is making the market expect higher rates and keeping the currency strong will prevent substantial spread narrowing before the general election. Also, political uncertainty continues to dog the market.

Greenwood on the cards

By Sarah Cunningham

STUART GREENWOOD, the former finance director of Spring Ram, is set to take a higher business profile after the acquisition by The Greeting Store Group, the company he now runs, of Strand Libraries, the greetings card retailer.

The privately owned Strand, the fourth-largest greetings card retailer in the UK, went into administration in May, owing more than £7 million and with sufficient cash flow to continue trading during the summer — tradi-

tionally a loss-making period. Arthur Andersen, the company's administrators, has since sold 15 of Strand's worst performing stores and returned the company to solvency. In the year to April, the company made a £500,000 loss on turnover of £31.5 million.

Just in time for the busy Christmas period, the Greeting Store Group agreed on Friday — after approval in the High Court's of the refinancing package for Strand prepared by Arthur Andersen —

to buy Strand's remaining 74 outlets. The Greeting Store Group already has a chain of 36 stores. Under the deal, it will pay off all of Strand's creditors in full. The main creditor, apart from landlords, is Hallmark, the greetings card manufacturer.

Mr Greenwood left Spring Ram, the ailing bathroom equipment manufacturer, in 1993, the first of a string of directors to quit the company as it sank further into financial difficulties.

Bid report goes to Lang

By Martin Waller

THE Monopolies and Mergers Commission will today pass to the Department of Trade and Industry a report on the takeover battle in the utilities sector — the attempt by two French companies to wrest control of Mid Kent Holdings, the supplier of water to 530,000 customers in Kent.

Ian Lang, President of the Board of Trade, will consider the commission's findings before giving a final ruling on whether a bid should be allowed next month. The two

French companies, General Utilities and SAUR, have not yet put a formal takeover offer on the table, pending clearance from Mr Lang, but an offer valuing the company at more than £75 million is expected if one is allowed.

The French, who have holdings totalling 39 per cent in Mid Kent, first made a hostile offer a year ago. Their bid for Mid Kent was referred to the MMC early in the summer, and the two have been at loggerheads with the water company over the

latter's allegations that customers would suffer if a takeover is allowed. Geoff Baldwin, chief executive of Mid Kent, claimed yesterday that hopepipe bans would be brought forward by a bid. The two French groups already own South East Water and Folkestone and Dover Water, two water supply companies which adjoin Mid Kent.

"South East Water has had hopepipe restrictions in force for more than a year," said Mr Baldwin. "There is no public benefit from a merger."

Institutions courted for £50m rights

Wickes seeks fresh start

By Sarah Cunningham

THE MANAGEMENT of Wickes, the scandal-hit DIY chain, is to hold a final round of meetings with institutional shareholders early this week in an effort to persuade them to support a £50 million rights issue, set to be launched on Thursday.

Some institutional investors are concerned that the company, whose former senior management is under investigation by the Serious Fraud Office, has increased the amount it wants to raise from £20 million.

One fund manager, who is due to meet Wickes's managers this week, said: "We are all still in the dark, and need to hear what Wickes have to say



A bidder may pounce

before we take any decisions." The Wickes management began visits to institutional investors last week. The recapitalisation will allow trading in Wickes shares, suspended in June, to restart. It could also trigger a bidding war. The suspension came after accounting irregularities were uncovered at the company.

Wickes has since disclosed that there had been "deliberate misrepresentation" of rebate arrangements with suppliers. The SFO said last month that it had begun an inquiry into the activities of former senior managers. The prospectus, which advisers hope to be able to release on Thursday, will include a restatement of 1995 profits and interim results for this year. The information could spur a bid for Wickes. Companies thought to be possible suitors are RMC and Kingfisher, owner of B&Q.

IN THE HIGH COURT OF JUSTICE
CHANCERY DIVISION
COMPANIES COURT

IN THE MATTER OF COUNTY NATWEST LIMITED
and
IN THE MATTER OF THE COMPANIES ACT 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Petition was on 15th November, 1996 presented to Her Majesty's High Court of Justice for the confirmation of the reduction of the capital of the above-named Company from £300,000,000 to £10,000,000.

AND NOTICE IS FURTHER GIVEN that the said Petition is directed to be heard before the Companies Court Registrar at the Royal Courts of Justice, Strand, London WC2A 2LL on Wednesday the 18th day of December, 1996.

ANY Creditor or Shareholder of the said Company desiring to oppose the making of an Order for the confirmation of the said reduction of capital should appear at the time of hearing in person or by Counsel for that purpose.

A copy of the said Petition will be furnished to any such person requiring the same by the undersigned Solicitors on payment of the regulated charge for the same.

Dated the 9th day of December, 1996.

LINKLATERS & PAINES (OTL)
Barrington House
39-47 Gresham Street
London EC2V 7JA

Solicitors for the above-named Company

GOLD FIELDS COAL LIMITED

DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND

The company has declared a final dividend No. 167 of 110 cents per ordinary share in South African currency, payable to members registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 27 December 1996.

Dividends will be electronically transferred to members' bank or building society accounts on 5 February 1997 at, where this method of payment has not been mandated, dividend warrants will be posted to members on 4 February 1997.

Standard conditions relating to the payment of dividends are obtainable at the share transfer offices and the London Office of the company.

The register of members will be closed from 28 December 1996 to 3 January 1997, inclusive.

By order of the Board
per pro GOLD FIELDS CORPORATE SERVICES LIMITED
London Secretary
S.J. Dunning, Secretary
London Office and Office of
United Kingdom Registrar
Greencoat House
Francis Street
London SW1P 1DH

Head Office:
75 Fox Street
Johannesburg 2001
Republic of South Africa

6 December 1996

Baby boomers face picking up the bill for US budget deficit

Not everyone accepts need to balance the books, says Bronwen Maddox

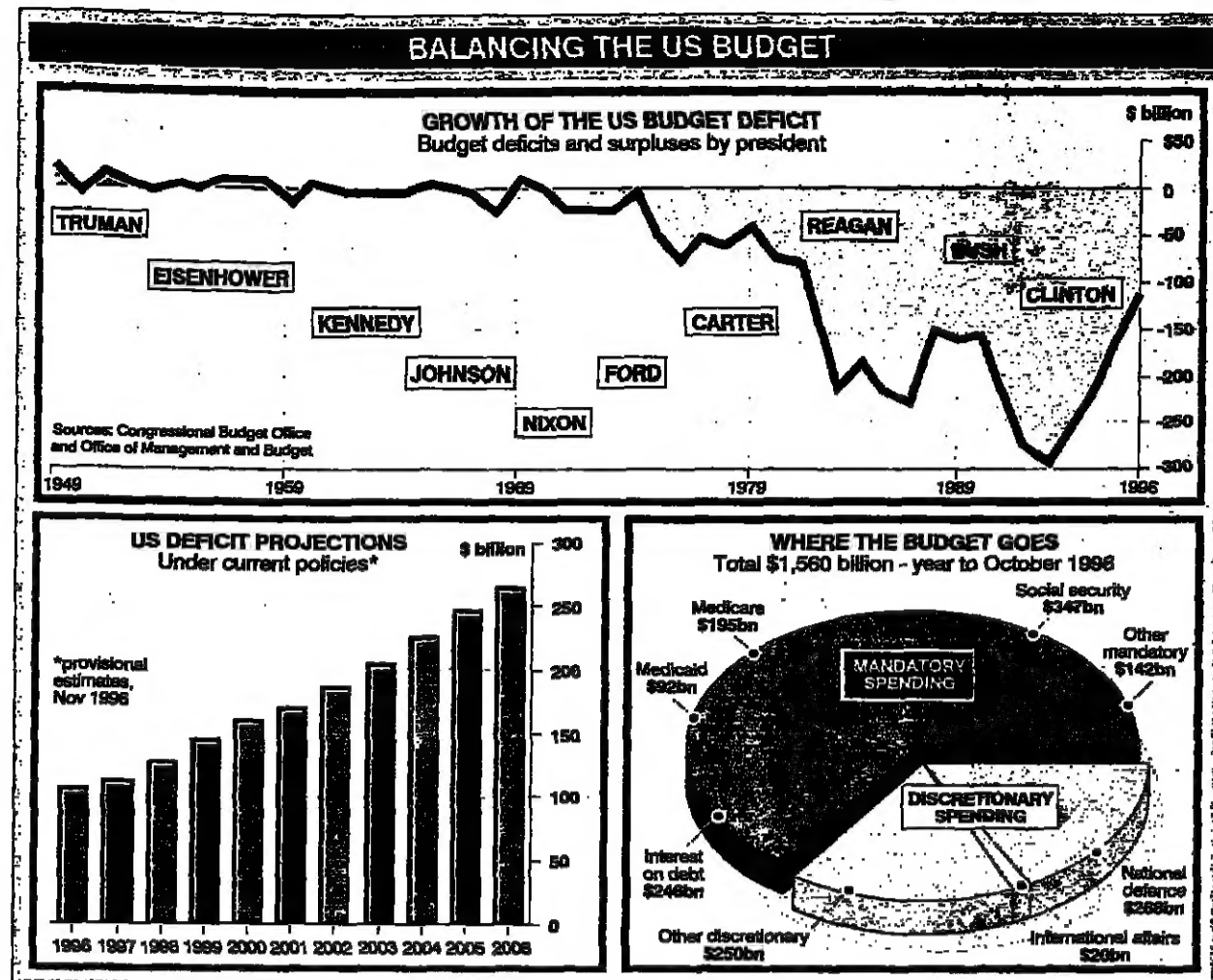
The turmoil on world stock markets after Alan Greenspan, the Federal Reserve Bank chairman, criticised Wall Street's "irrational exuberance" on Thursday, meant that his remarks the next day on the looming US budget crisis went unheard. In a speech in Philadelphia, Mr Greenspan said that America's social security system was heading for bankruptcy if taxes were not raised or benefits slashed. "Clearly, something has to give — the question is what," he said.

That comment has more implications for the long-term buoyancy of Wall Street than his tart observation about the markets' frothiness. Social security is just one factor in the problem of the US budget deficit, the gap between government annual income and spending, which threatens to push up national debt and interest rates, choking economic growth. President Clinton has said that making progress on balancing the budget is the highest priority of his second term, and the Republican-controlled Congress may soon pass an amendment to the US constitution forcing him to do so.

Yet, neither Mr Clinton nor Congress has come up with a plausible plan for how to trim the deficit. For a good reason: solutions mean radically reworking the financial contract that US citizens have come to believe that they have with their Government. In particular, it means telling the generation that has grown up since the Second World War, middle-class baby boomers like Mr Clinton himself, that they are going to be much poorer than they expected.

There are few more electorally palatable messages a politician can deliver. But as Mr Greenspan said, the longer action is deferred, the greater the eventual tax increases, or more likely, the cuts in benefits.

The idea that balancing the budget is a pressing task is not accepted by many US economists and political commentators. They have a point, in theory. The deficit is just an accounting number; there is no simple relationship with the economy's growth or people's level of income. It is quite reasonable for governments to borrow at periods in the economic cycle to finance investment,



provided that the debt can be repaid out of future income. As the chart shows, there has not been a US budget surplus since 1969, in a budget proposed by President Nixon and inherited by President Ford.

Critics of budget balancing are also right to complain that the deficit has taken on a symbolic importance in Americans' minds for dubious reasons: people regard it as a sign of whether the Government is out of control, rather than as one economic indicator among many. That confusion has led to the clumsy attempt to use the US constitution to specify details of fiscal policy.

All the same, there is a good reason to think that at this point the deficit should be cut sharply. For a start, as David Hale, an influential economic commentator based in Chicago, points out: "At this point in the business cycle we should expect to be running a surplus."

Robert Reichbauer, the former director of the non-partisan Congressional Budget Office, now a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, goes further: "We should be running a surplus now, not just because of the business cycle, but because of the stage we're at in the demographic cycle."

The core of the problem is that in the second and third decades of the next century, when the baby boom generation has retired, government

income will fall short of the amounts needed for social security and Medicare, the programme of medical care for the elderly, as well as for welfare programmes such as Medicaid. On social security alone, Mr Greenspan noted on Friday, funds are due to run out by 2029 and reach a shortfall of "a staggering \$3 trillion" by 2070.

If steps are not taken soon, taxes will soar in those decades or the framework of benefits will collapse. Mr Clinton, who says that his second term will be dedicated to meeting that

challenge, has been helped by the economy's recent strength. Projections of the deficit to 2006 (shown in the chart) have been revised downwards by roughly a third since the summer as economic growth has boosted tax revenues and squeezed unemployment benefits.

But he has so far failed to produce a coherent plan of how he will bring a balanced budget closer. His campaign promise to preserve Medicare, Medicaid, education and environmental programmes implied that the burden of cuts would

fall on non-defence discretionary spending.

This category includes many programmes that are essentially corporate subsidies, such as small business aid, export promotion and energy research. Mr Clinton may be able to trim them, although special interest groups will fight passionately for their preservation. But this category, which also includes the Coast Guard, national parks and some educational programmes, makes up only a sixth of the total budget. If the budget were to be balanced purely by cuts in this area, the role of the federal government in the economy would fall back to the same level as the beginning of the 1930s, a reversal voters are unlikely to support.

Some policy advisers suggest taking advantage of last week's revelation that inflation has been miscalculated for the past two decades, using this as a way to reduce index-linked payments such as social security. But other advisers point out that voters would spot this as a cut in benefits.

In practice, the savings that Mr Clinton is likely to scrape together, after fierce political battles, may appear to support his claim that the deficit is heading for zero by 2002. But they will not be on a scale to stop it gaping open again after 2010. Despite Mr Clinton's promises, most models suggest that the necessary cuts will eventually have to come from



Alan Greenspan and Bill Clinton say the deficit needs tackling

Medicare, Medicaid and social security.

A federal advisory panel which has been studying the social security funding problem for two years has been sharply divided over the best way forward. Part of the panel believes in a solution that has been dubbed a "magic wand" — investing social security funds in the stock market rather than government bonds in the hope that they will yield higher returns. But other panel members accept that cuts in entitlements are almost inevitable. That has led them to explore a plan that has until now been taboo: requiring people to put money aside for their retirement.

Despite the US's culture of private enterprise, and provision of a safety net that is skimpy compared with that in many European countries, there is enormous public resistance to the idea of privatising state benefits. Yet, many government advisers state bluntly that unless baby boomers begin to save more, their expectations of retirement will be severely disappointed.

Mr Reichbauer says: "Most 40-year-old Americans, asked 'how are you going to live in retirement?' look around at their parents and say 'like that'. They don't understand the very peculiar circumstances which have allowed their parents to live as well as they do, in particular the huge appreciation in the value of housing." The parents of baby boomers, many of whom grew up during recession when public health and pension schemes were scanty, saved "too much" — they put by money for their old age, and then were showered with bounty by government schemes.

What is more, many baby boomers have suffered divorces, which tend to be financially ruinous. Remarriage or late marriage mean that many have children in college when they are in their 50s; in contrast, they left their parents' homes when they were in their twenties or thirties.

Warnings by Mr Greenspan are unlikely to be enough to persuade politicians, working to a four-year horizon, to cut public spending or raise taxes by enough to head off the next century's crisis in federal entitlements. It has never been easy to persuade people working now to pay more for the benefit of future generations, as voters' reluctance to pay for environmental preservation shows.

It is possible, however, that his warnings might jolt people into saving more of their income to protect themselves in the future. Baby boomers might start to make amends on their own behalf for the near-certainty that politicians will not grapple with the crisis until it is upon them.

Ecology for everyone

Present Tense: The Enduring World of the Innu. Radio 3, 9.20pm.

James Wilson presents this five-part series about the customs and folklore of the Innu, indigenous to the Labrador/Quebec peninsula in northeast Canada. It is what he says, certainly not the rather lacklustre way he says it, that makes his series a fine example of popular ecology. Contemporary opinion, based on European concepts of cultural development, is that this little-known nation of hunters is an anachronism. "Stone Age Arctic nomads," is how one Canadian television commentator dismissed them just a couple of years ago. But Wilson says the Innu see themselves very differently — as part of a sacred reality in which animals, human beings and land are joyfully intertwined.

The Life and Legends of Wallis Simpson. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

Shocks follow on each others' heels so closely in part two of Elizabeth Proud's play sequence about Edward (Christopher Cazenove) and Mrs Simpson (Stockard Channing) that, in what seems less than a wink after HRH is telling the notorious American that she must miss central heating in London, she is admonishing him not to eat with his fingers like a naughty boy. And while husband Edward is doing off in a nightclub, his spouse and the Prince are gazing across the dancefloor to the tune of *Too For Two*. Popular songs of the day are used throughout the play like punctuation marks. Fortunately, they include *Let's Face the Music and Dance*. Peter Daville

RADIO 1
7.00am Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo
12.00 Lisa 'Anson, includes at 12.30pm 12.45 Newsbeat 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Mark Goodier, includes 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session, with Jo Whiteley and Steve Lamacq 8.00 John Peel's Classic Radio One Session 10.00 Mark Radcliffe 12.00 Claire Sturgess, includes at 12.15am The Next 4.30 Chris Warren, with the Early Breakfast Show

RADIO 2
6.00am Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 8.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 Jimmy Young 1.30pm Debbie Dingle 3.00 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Durn 7.00 Hubert Green 8.30 Malcolm Lawford, with Dance Band Days 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 Micky Doland 10.05 Anna Ford (85) 10.30 The Jamieson 10.55am Steve Mason 3.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE
6.00am Morning Reports, incl at 6.45 Wake Up to money 6.00 The Breakfast Programme incl at 6.45 7.55 racing review 8.35 The Magazine, with Denis MacE, incl at 10.35 News from Europe 12.00 Midday with Mel, incl at 12.30pm Newsbeat 2.00 Focus on Five 4.00 Newsline, incl at 5.45 Entertainment News 7.00 News Extra, incl at 7.25 Sports Bulletin 7.25 Sportsbeat 8.05 The Monday Match, Newcastle United v Nottingham Forest 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.00am All Night

TALK RADIO
6.00am Early Breakfast 7.00 Paul Ross 8.00 Scott Chisholm 12.00 Anna Ford 1.00pm The Tommy Boyd 4.00 Drivetime, with Peter Dinkley 7.00 Muz Day's Sportszone 10.00 James Whale 1.00am Ian Collins

VIRGIN RADIO
6.00am Run 'n' Jon's Breakfast 6.00am Henry Kelly 6.30am Graham Doherty 7.00am The Virgin Breakfast 7.00am Paul Doyle (FM) 7.00am Paul Doyle (AM) 10.00am Mark Forrest 2.00am Richard Lee Ross

RADIO 4
6.00am On Air, with Penny Gorn. Includes Britain's Variations on a theme by Haydn, St Antoni Chrysostom, Albinus (Concerto in C for trumpet, three oboes, bassoon and continuo); Verdi (Ere più calmo); My Cousin, Ave Maria, Op. 42; Gershwin (Sweet and lowdown); Novello in Fourth, So am I)

9.50 An Advent Calendar. Malcolm Bruno introduces more Christmas carols performed by British amateur choirs. Easterday Singers under Nicholas Berran. William Billings (A Virgin Unpacked); Gruber (Silent Night); Jeremiah Ingalls (Glory to God on high)

9.00 Morning Collection, Rossini (Overture, Semiramide); Dvorak (Crisis of Nubia); Dvorak (Cello Concerto in B minor)

10.00 Musical Encounters, with Chris Wines. Includes Schumann (Kinderszenen); Bizet (Chant d'Amour); Ravel (Daphne); Enescu (Flowerland Rhapsody No 2); Schubert (String Trio in B flat, Allegro); Berioz (La Mort de Ophelia); Bruckner (String Quintet in F, original version)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Robert Schumann. Includes Schumann (Kinderszenen); Bizet (Chant d'Amour); Ravel (Daphne); Enescu (Flowerland Rhapsody No 2); Schubert (String Trio in B flat, Allegro); Berioz (La Mort de Ophelia); Bruckner (String Quintet in F, original version)

1.00pm News, BBC Localities Concert. Live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Vivaldi: Concerto, Haydn (String Quartet in G, Op 54 No 1); Berg (Lyric Suite)

2.05 The BBC Christmas Eve, BBC Philharmonic under Val Paroult. With the

5.55 Shipping (LW) 6.00 News 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.20am 6.25am 6.30am 6.35am 6.40am 6.45am 6.50am 6.55am 7.00am 7.05am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.25am 7.30am 7.35am 7.40am 7.45am 7.50am 7.55am 8.00am 8.05am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am 10.05am 10.10am 10.15am 10.20am 10.25am 10.30am 10.35am 10.40am 10.45am 10.50am 10.55am 11.00am 11.05am 11.10am 11.15am 11.20am 11.25am 11.30am 11.35am 11.40am 11.45am 11.50am 11.55am 12.00am 12.05am 12.10am 12.15am 12.20am 12.25am 12.30am 12.35am 12.40am 12.45am 12.50am 12.55am 1.00am 1.05am 1.10am 1.15am 1.20am 1.25am 1.30am 1.35am 1.40am 1.45am 1.50am 1.55am 2.00am 2.05am 2.10am 2.15am 2.20am 2.25am 2.30am 2.35am 2.40am 2.45am 2.50am 2.55am 3.00am 3.05am 3.10am 3.15am 3.20am 3.25am 3.30am 3.35am 3.40am 3.45am 3.50am 3.55am 4.00am 4.05am 4.10am 4.15am 4.20am 4.25am 4.30am 4.35am 4.40am 4.45am 4.50am 4.55am 5.00am 5.05am 5.10am 5.15am 5.20am 5.25am 5.30am 5.35am 5.40am 5.45am 5.50am 5.55am 6.00am 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.20am 6.25am 6.30am 6.35am 6.40am 6.45am 6.50am 6.55am 7.00am 7.05am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.25am 7.30am 7.35am 7.40am 7.45am 7.50am 7.55am 8.00am 8.05am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am 10.05am 10.10am 10.15am 10.20am 10.25am 10.30am 10.35am 10.40am 10.45am 10.50am 10.55am 11.00am 11.05am 11.10am 11.15am 11.20am 11.25am 11.30am 11.35am 11.40am 11.45am 11.50am 11.55am 12.00am 12.05am 12.10am 12.15am 12.20am 12.25am 12.30am 12.35am 12.40am 12.45am 12.50am 12.55am 1.00am 1.05am 1.10am 1.15am 1.20am 1.25am 1.30am 1.35am 1.40am 1.45am 1.50am 1.55am 2.00am 2.05am 2.10am 2.15am 2.20am 2.25am 2.30am 2.35am 2.40am 2.45am 2.50am 2.55am 3.00am 3.05am 3.10am 3.15am 3.20am 3.25am 3.30am 3.35am 3.40am 3.45am 3.50am 3.55am 4.00am 4.05am 4.10am 4.15am 4.20am 4.25am 4.30am 4.35am 4.40am 4.45am 4.50am 4.55am 5.00am 5.05am 5.10am 5.15am 5.20am 5.25am 5.30am 5.35am 5.40am 5.45am 5.50am 5.55am 6.00am 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.20am 6.25am 6.30am 6.35am 6.40am 6.45am 6.50am 6.55am 7.00am 7.05am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.25am 7.30am 7.35am 7.40am 7.45am 7.50am 7.55am 8.00am 8.05am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am 10.05am 10.10am 10.15am 10.20am 10.25am 10.30am 10.35am 10.40am 10.45am 10.50am 10.55am 11.00am 11.05am 11.10am 11.15am 11.20am 11.25am 11.30am 11.35am 11.40am 11.45am 11.50am 11.55am 12.00am 12.05am 12.10am 12.15am 12.20am 12.25am 12.30am 12.35am 12.40am 12.45am 12.50am 12.55am 1.00am 1.05am 1.10am 1.15am 1.20am 1.25am 1.30am 1.35am 1.40am 1.45am 1.50am 1.55am 2.00am 2.05am 2.10am 2.15am 2.20am 2.25am 2.30am 2.35am 2.40am 2.45am 2.50am 2.55am 3.00am 3.05am 3.10am 3.15am 3.20am 3.25am 3.30am 3.35am 3.40am 3.45am 3.50am 3.55am 4.00am 4.05am 4.10am 4.15am 4.20am 4.25am 4.30am 4.35am 4.40am 4.45am 4.50am 4.55am 5.00am 5.05am 5.10am 5.15am 5.20am 5.25am 5.30am 5.35am 5.40am 5.45am 5.50am 5.55am 6.00am 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.20am 6.25am 6.30am 6.35am 6.40am 6.45am 6.50am 6.55am 7.00am 7.05am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.25am 7.30am 7.35am 7.40am 7.45am 7.50am 7.55am 8.00am 8.05am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am 10.05am 10.10am 10.15am 10.20am 10.25am 10.30am 10.35am 10.40am 10.45am 10.50am 10.55am 11.00am 11.05am 11.10am 11.15am 11.20am 11.25am 11.30am 11.35am 11.40am 11.45am 11.50am 11.55am 12.00am 12.05am 12.10am 12.15am 12.20am 12.25am 12.30am 12.35am 12.40am 12.45am 12.50am 12.55am 1.00am 1.05am 1.10am 1.15am 1.20am 1.25am 1.30am 1.35am 1.40am 1.45am 1.50am 1.55am 2.00am 2.05am 2.10am 2.15am 2.20am 2.25am 2.30am 2.35am 2.40am 2.45am 2.50am 2.55am 3.00am 3.05am 3.10am 3.15am 3.20am 3.25am 3.30am 3.35am 3.40am 3.45am 3.50am 3.55am 4.00am 4.05am 4.10am 4.15am 4.20am 4.25am 4.30am 4.35am 4.40am 4.45am 4.50am 4.55am 5.00am 5.05am 5.10am 5.15am 5.20am 5.25am 5.30am 5.35am 5.40am 5.45am 5.50am 5.55am 6.00am 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.20am 6.25am 6.30am 6.35am 6.40am 6.45am 6.50am 6.55am 7.00am 7.05am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.25am 7.30am 7.35am 7.40am 7.45am 7.50am 7.55am 8.00am 8.05am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am 10.05am 10.10am 10.15am 10.20am 10.25am 10.30am 10.35am 10.40am 10.45am 10.50am 10.55am 11.00am 11.05am 11.10am 11.15am 11.20am 11.25am 11.30am 11.35am 11.40am 11.45am 11.50am 11.55am 12.00am 12.05am 12.10am 12.15am 12.20am 12.25am 12.30am 12.35am 12.40am 12.45am 12.50am 12.55am 1.00am 1.05am 1.10am 1.15am 1.20am 1.25am 1.30am 1.35am 1.40am 1.45am 1.50am 1.55am 2.00am 2.05am 2.10am 2.15am 2.20am 2.25am 2.30am 2.35am 2.40am 2.45am 2.50am 2.55am 3.00am 3.05am 3.10am 3.15am 3.20am 3.25am 3.30am 3.35am 3.40am 3.45am 3.50am 3.55am 4.00am 4.05am 4.10am 4.15am 4.20am 4.25am 4.30am 4.35am 4.40am 4.45am 4.50am 4.55am 5.00am 5.05am 5.10am 5.15am 5.20am 5.25am 5.30am 5.35am 5.40am 5.45am 5.50am 5.55am 6.00am 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.20am 6.25am 6.30am 6.35am 6.40am 6.45am 6.50am 6.55am 7.00am 7.05am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.25am 7.30am 7.35am 7.40am 7.45am 7.50am 7.55am 8.00am 8.05am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am 10.05am 10.10am 10.15am 10.20am 10.25am 10.30am 10.35am 10.40am 10.45am 10.50am 10.55am 11.00am 11.05am 11.10am 11.15am 11.20am 11.25am 11.30am 11.35am 11.40am 11.45am 11.50am 11.55am 12.00am 12.05am 12.10am 12.15am 12.20am 12.25am 12.30am 12.35am 12.40am 12.45am 12.50am 12.55am 1.00am 1.05am 1.10am 1.15am 1.20am 1.25am 1.30am 1.35am 1.40am 1.45am 1.50am 1.55am 2.00am 2.05am 2.10am 2.15am 2.20am 2.25am 2.30am 2.35am 2.40am 2.45am 2.50am 2.55am 3.00am 3.05am 3.10am 3.15am 3.20am 3.25am 3.30am 3.35am 3.40am 3.45am 3.50am 3.55am 4.00am 4.05am 4.10am 4.15am 4.20am 4.25am 4.30am 4.35am 4.40am 4.45am 4.50am 4.55am 5.00am 5.05am 5.10am 5.15am 5.20am 5.25am 5.30am 5.35am 5.40am 5.45am 5.50am 5.55am 6.00am 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.20am 6.25am 6.30am 6.35am 6.40am 6.45am 6.50am 6.55am 7.00am 7.05am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.25am 7.30am 7.35am 7.40am 7.45am 7.50am 7.55am 8.00am 8.05am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am 10.05am 10.10am 10.15am 10.20am 10.25am 10.30am 10.35am 10.40am 10.45am 10.50am 10.55am 11.00am 11.05am 11.10am 11.15am 11.20am 11.25am 11.30am 11.35am 11.40am 11.45am 11.50am 11.55am 12.00am 12.05am 12.10am 12.15am 12.20am 12.25am 12.30am 12.35am 12.40am 12.45am 12.50am 12.55am 1.00am 1.05am 1.10am 1.15am 1.20am 1.25am 1.30am 1.35am 1.40am 1.45am 1.50am 1.55am 2.00am 2.05am 2.10am 2.15am 2.20am 2.25am 2.30am 2.35am 2.40am 2.45am 2.50am 2.55am 3.00am 3.05am 3.10am 3.15am 3.20am 3.25am 3.30am 3.35am 3.40am 3.45am 3.50am 3.55am 4.00am 4.05am 4.10am 4.15am 4.20am 4.25am 4.30am 4.35am 4.40am 4.45am 4.50am 4.55am 5.00am 5.05am 5.10am 5.15am 5.20am 5.25am 5.30am 5.35am 5.40am 5.45am 5.50am 5.55am 6.00am 6.05am 6.10am 6.15am 6.20am 6.25am 6.30am 6.35am 6.40am 6.45am 6.50am 6.55am 7.00am 7.05am 7.10am 7.15am 7.20am 7.25am 7.30am 7.35am 7.40am 7.45am 7.50am 7.55am 8.00am 8.05am 8.10am 8.15am 8.20am 8.25am 8.30am 8.35am 8.40am 8.45am 8.50am 8.55am 9.00am 9.05am 9.10am 9.15am 9.20am 9.25am 9.30am 9.35am 9.40am 9.45am 9.50am 9.55am 10.00am 10.05am 10.10am 10.15am 10.20am 10.25am 10.30am 10.35am 10.40am 10.45am 10.50am 10.55am 11.00am 11.05am 11.10am 11.15am 11.20am 11.25am 11.30am 11.35am 11.40am 11.45am 11.50am 11.55am 12.00am 12.05am 12.10am 12.15am 12.20am 12.25am 12.30am 12.35am 12.40am 12.45am 12.50am 12.55am 1.00am 1.05am 1.10am 1.15am 1.20am 1.25am 1.30am 1.35am 1.40am 1.45am 1.50am 1.55am 2.00am 2.05am 2.10am 2.15am 2.20am 2.25am 2.30am 2.35am 2.40am 2.45am 2.50am 2.55am 3.00am 3.05am 3.10am 3.15am 3.20am 3.25am 3.30am 3.35am 3.40am 3.45am 3.50am 3.55am 4.00am 4.05am 4.10am 4.15am 4.20am 4.25am 4.30am 4.35am 4.40am 4.45am 4.50am 4.55am 5.00am 5.05am 5.10am 5.15am 5.20am 5.25am 5.30am 5.35am 5.40am 5.45am 5.50am 5.55am 6.00am 6.05

Seventeen sex scenes, give or take a couple

Quite where it was I first learnt there were 17 sex scenes in *Moll Flanders* I forget now. Given the avalanche of publicity that preceded Andrew Davies' adaptation, it could have been anywhere. But wherever it was, I wish I had never smacked eyes on the miserable statistic.

No sooner has Jim Parker's deeply unimaginative theme music begun, than I am there — a pathetic figure struggling in vain to keep the score. After last night's third instalment I make it — with absolutely no confidence at all — 11 down, six to go.

This unimpressive lack of precision stems from my own uncertainty as to what constitutes a sex scene. The general principles I am familiar with (that's what comes of watching too much television) but some of the subtleties are still causing me problems.

For example, do interrupted second helpings count twice and, for that matter, do fully clothed couplings count at all? Answer no to both and our tally could be as low as nine and tonight's concluding episode should be a busy one. Answer yes, however, and if clergymen fulminating lasciviously over the sins of the flesh also count, then we're already up to 13 and it's pretty much all over, bar the lesbian interpolation.

This sort of highly technical analysis has kept me busy, so busy in fact that it has taken all of three episodes for a different truth to dawn on my distracted brain: that *Moll Flanders* is, ... rather bad. I don't mean Alex Kingston is rather bad — she has been wonderful as Moll — and should collect a host of awards including Best Eyebrows (a close contest with Frances Barber as Princess Radzwill in *Rhodes* and Best Topless Asides to Camera (unless

Christmas holds some real surprises, a certainty).

But nearly everybody else — from Diana Rigg down, as my colleague Lynne Truss pointed out last week — has fallen short of the expected mark. They have not been helped by a production that combines 17th-century authenticity on the wardrobe front (bonnets from hell for the women, tight wigs for the men) with a very 20th-century delivery of the words. "Leave it, Solina," snapped the normally splendid Daniel Craig, as he drew his way through the part of Jimmy Seagrave.

Far more culpable, however, is Davies' screenplay, which while being undeniably amusing, has chased cheap laughs at every opportunity (witness Moll's confession and the preposterous clergyman she met on the coach) and normally cheap, 20th-century laughs at that. The



Matthew Bond

result, at times, has been so much of a romp as a pantomime. So, having established that, it's back to keeping the score. Does anybody know if gratuitous lesbian scenes count double?

First, however, let us consider Malcolm Gluck, a man whose time has surely passed but who instead finds himself with his own television series, the serially onomatopoeic and seriously annoying

Gluck Gluck Gluck (BBC2, Friday). You might think that a man who founded a second career (his first was in advertising, I believe) on the word "plonk" might have had the decency to move on to a third career based on something a little more contemporary by now. But no, Gluck is still here, blithely ignoring the fact that — for all the right reasons — the bonum end of the wine market has become rather dull. A revolution in wine making and the buying expertise of the supermarkets have raised the quality of wines to a standard that most people would describe as quite acceptable.

Quite acceptable, however, as Jilly Gooden will tell you, does not a wine programme make — oh dear me, no. So we're off again, down the familiar path of tortuous links (for one Gluck sat in a bath just so he could describe the texture of a wine as flannel) and tortured descriptions. As a profes-

sional debunker (where others quaff, Gluck scoffs) Gluck ought to be above all that "oaky, limy, hint of under-ripe melony" nonsense but alas — no.

An Australian white wine, he grilles, "now there's a revolutionary thought or even — yes — with 'lightly spiced oriental fish dishes'." As for the red from Raimat, it was "great with chicken and mushrooms or ... wait for it ... simply sitting sipping on the front step". Cheers, Malcolm, here's to that third career.

In conclusion, let us consider the excuses producers came up with to make us watch more pictures of animals. Some are good, such as the stylish *Spirits of the Jaguar* (BBC2), which yesterday turned its attention to the Maya, or to be more specific, the animals that live in the Central American forests that surround

the ruins where the Maya used to live. The result was enjoyable if mildly exasperating, leaving me wanting to know more about the Maya and less about silky ant-eaters and blind cave-fish.

Compare and contrast this with *The Saga of Life* (Channel 4, Saturday) the second part of which was the sort of misassembled tosh that would have had your biology teacher apologising for 20 years ago. What Michael Grade was doing showing it at 8 o'clock on a Saturday night, only he knows.

The common link to a programme an endless hour long was microscopic animals that had been filmed by one Lennart Nilsson. "Lennart Nilsson has allowed us to gaze into an unseen world," enthused the sort of narration that could cause sniggering at the back. I scratched the "tropical rain-forests" of my scalp, flexed the "fertile foothills" of my forearms, and reached for the remote control.

- BBC1**
- 6.00am **BUSINESS BREAKFAST** (57539)
7.00 **BBC Breakfast News** (7) (58529)
9.00 **Breakfast News Extra** (7) (1053170)
9.25 **STYLISH CHALLENGE** (4943489)
9.45 **KILROY** (8775538)
10.30 **CANT COOK, WON'T COOK** With Ainsley Harriott (37354)
11.00 **NEWS** (7), regional news and weather (3462422) 11.05 **The Really Useful Show** (5403335) 11.45 **Smilie's People** (5850505)
12.00 **NEWS** (7), regional news and weather (5125578)
12.05pm **QUINCY** (3490623) 12.50 **The Weather Show** (5087280)
1.00 **NEWS** (7) and weather (61965)
1.30 **REGIONAL NEWS** (2723428)
1.40 **NEIGHBOURS** (7) (25813422) 2.00 **Call My Bluff** (5189) 2.30 **Who'll Do the Pudding?** (847) 3.00 **Incongruity** (4805)
3.30 **THE BUSY WORLD OF RICHARD SCARRY** (1836480) 3.55 **Bodger and Badger** (2101034) 4.10 **Ace Ventura: Pet Detective** (1801644) 4.35 **Record Breakers** (7) (7759757) 5.00 **Newsworld** (7) (5355118) 5.10 **Blue Peter** (7) (9557825)
5.35 **NEIGHBOURS** (7) (481094)
6.00 (7) and weather (248)
6.30 **REGIONAL NEWS MAGAZINES** (828)
7.00 **TELLY ADDICTS** Noel Edmonds presents the second semi-final of the television trivia quiz (7) (5915)
7.30 **TOMORROW'S WORLD** Includes a look at what is claimed to be the world's fastest car, which the manufacturers say is impossible to crash (7) (712)
8.00 **EASTENDERS** Phil and Grant learn some disturbing facts about George. Peggy has another hospital appointment (7) (5335)
8.30 **CHEF!** Comedy drama starring Larry Henry. With his divorce looming, Gareth is prone to severe mood swings as he mingles with the chefs (7) (7170)
9.00 **NEWS** (7) and weather (7809)
9.30 **PANORAMA: THE PRICE IS WRONG** John Warne investigates allegations that the price of hi-fi, television and fridges are being kept artificially high (7) (72847)
10.10 **BILLY CONNOLLY'S WORLD TOUR OF AUSTRALIA** As the Scottish comedian's tour nears its end, Billy arrives in the Outback, where he visits an op-mining town and sees underground homes — equipped with bars and swimming pools (7) (77731)
10.50 **COMMON AS MUCK** Comedy series about a gang of dustmen (7) (750161) 11.00 **WALSH: The State** 11.20 **Film** 96 11.50 **Common as Muck** 12.45 **Smilie's People** 1.30 **News**
11.50 **Film** 96 **WITH BARRY NORMAN** Reviews of 101 *Dalmatians* with Glenn Close as Cruella De Vil, *Star Trek — First Contact* and *Shogun*. Andy Ward, which charts Valerius' attempts to kill the 19th-century artist and filmmaker. Plus, Sylvester Stallone talks about his latest action movie, *Daylight* (7) (738800)
12.20am **SMILLIE'S PEOPLE** (2345297)
1.05 **WEATHER** (9687871)

VideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes

The numbers next to each TV programme listing and video numbers allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+ handset. Tap in the Video PlusCode for the programme you wish to record. VideoPlus+ (V) and Video PlusCodes are trademarks of Vantage Development Ltd.

- BBC2**
- 6.00am **OPEN UNIVERSITY: Lifestyles, Work and the Family** (2253595) 6.50 **A New Role for Men** (51151) 7.15 **See Hear Breakfast News** (2187538) 7.30 **Yakky Duck** (5008422) 7.50 **Blue Peter** (5015538) 8.15 **Charlie Chalk** (5540680) 8.30 **Lasse** (48460) 9.00 **The World's Worst** (1080450) 9.15 **Turner and Tiddlers** (551557) 10.00 **Playdays** (2513488) 10.25 **The Champions** (3400664) 11.15 **The Phil Stevens Show** (2520562) 11.40 **Flash Gordon's Trip to Mars** (3335359) 12.00 **Ken Horne's Hot Wit** (25248) 12.30 **Working Lunch** (57347) 1.00 **Charlie Chalk** (5555529)
1.15 **FILM: Third Finger Left Hand** (194), b/w Comedy starring Myrna Loy and Melvyn Douglas. Directed by Robert Z. Leonard (50011170)
2.50 **A WEEK TO REMEMBER** (3180544) 3.00 **News** (7209422) 3.05 **The Natural World** (2543460) 3.55 **News** (5019528) 4.00 **Today's Day** (441) 4.30 **Ready, Steady, Cook** (525) 5.00 **Easther** (7793) 5.30 **Going, Going, Gone** (977)
6.00 **SPACE PRECINCT** (7) (849441)
6.45 **AS SEEN ON TV** (459286)
7.00 **1914-18: Mutiny** By 1917 the strain of war was beginning to show on both the battle and home fronts (b/w) (316583)
7.50 **HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS** The tasks undertaken by children, who are currently fighting in conflicts in thirty-two countries around the world (592511)
8.00 **HORIZON: Medicines with a Bang** Charting the work of a British chemist and his colleagues who won the Nobel Prize for their research which resulted in a third form of carbon being identified (7) (715151)
8.50 **GARDENERS' WORLD TAKE TWO** Highlights from recent programmes (7) (879731)
9.00 **WICKED WOMEN: KING GIRL** Gripping drama about an all-gid gang who virtually destroy the life of a naive girl who is grieving for her dead father. With Louise Atkins and Cathy Purcell (2160731)
10.15 **MATCH OF THE DAY** The FA Cup third round draw, live (288947)
10.30 **NEWSNIGHT** (7) (555793)
11.15 **A ROOM WITH TWO VIEWS: Assisted Conception** (627793)
11.45 **HUMAN RIGHTS, HUMAN WRONGS** (7) (538986)
12.00 **THE MIDNIGHT HOUR** (1852)
12.30am **THE LEARNING ZONE: O.U. — Women Artists** (27584) 1.00 **Managing in Organizations** (31710) 2.00 **Living with Pain** (25454) 3.00 **Italy 2000** (29422) 4.00 **Defending Justice** (49497) 5.00 **Pathways to Care** (57300) 5.30 **RCN Nursing Update** (42981)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm **Ace in the Hole** (1951) (585344) 4.30 **The Bridge** (1954) (585344) 5.00 **Rebel Spirit** (481128) 5.30 **Go! JC Penney Classics** (9451028) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.50 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.00 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 8.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 9.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 9.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 10.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 10.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 11.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 11.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 12.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 12.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 1.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 1.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 2.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 2.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 3.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 3.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 4.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 4.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 5.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 5.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 6.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 6.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 7.00 **Winning Sports Coverage** (1010161) 7.30 **League Rugby** (198919) 8.00

